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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT

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April 28, 2010



BOOKIES HIT BY STRING OF ROBBERIES

COPYCAT criminals are being blamed for carrying out raids on two Medway bookmakers following a spate of similar robberies.

The claim was made by the Association of British Bookmakers after eight betting shops were targeted across the towns in quick succession.

Gary McMeekin, 35, of Kingswear Gardens, Strood, has been charged with carrying out six of these raids – four in Strood and two in Snodland – between November 2009 and January this year.

He was arrested on Friday, April 9, and charged with robbing six book-

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

makers and two banks and remanded in custody.

Another Medway betting shop was raided just three days later when two men stormed into the Rochester High Street Metrobet branch. The men threatened staff before making off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Karl Fisher, 26, of no fixed address, was arrested on Monday, April 19, and also remanded into custody.

Two days later a hooded man held up the William Hill shop in Barnsole Road, Gillingham.

No arrests have been made.

The ABB's senior executive Tom Kenny said: "We are aware of the incidents in Medway.

"Sadly, one cannot rule out a certain amount of copycat behaviour. If one group of criminals targets a particular area and seems to find it worthwhile then others may be tempted to have a go as well.

"Our message would be that these people are risking being sentenced to a significant time in jail for a nominal amount of cash.

"The average amount of cash taken from raids on bookmakers is £500 and it is often significantly less.

"For four or five years in prison, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



FESTIVAL SWEEPS THROUGH TOWN

Morris troupes from across Britain will head for the heart of historic Rochester this weekend for the 30th soot-inspired Sweeps Festival.

The annual weekender, one of the most established May Day celebrations in Europe, is expected to draw in 100,000 visitors.

Festivities begin with the traditional Jack-in-the-Green awakening ceremony at dawn on Saturday, May 1, before a huge procession makes its way through Rochester.

The town centre will then play host to three days' worth of street entertainers, dancers, chimney sweeps and colourful Morris troupes.

For full details of this year's Sweeps Festival and to download a brochure see www.whatsonmedway.co.uk/sweepsfestival.

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£14,000 for police knife threat victim

AN ARTHRITIC man who had a knife held to his throat by a police officer says Force superiors should have been sacked over his ordeal.

Chatham man Anthony Colcomb, 57, won £14,000 compensation and an apology after being assaulted by two officers investigating an alleged robbery in August, 2008.

They were both subsequently convicted of assault and sacked.

Sgt Oliver Tingly – who was accused of holding the knife to Mr Colcomb's throat – was jailed for 90 days over the incident while his colleague, PC Luke Barlow, received 300 hours' community service.

In a letter of apology to the victim written on behalf of the Chief Constable, Kent Police's head of legal services Beverley Newman admitted there were "clearly important lessons to be learned" and that the force "very much regrets" the actions of its former officers and the "distress and upset" they caused.

Mr Colcomb said of the attack: "It was absolutely terrifying. One officer – Barlow – threw me on to my sofa and sat on me while he shouted in my face. I couldn't move at all.

"Then the other one took me into the kitchen and held a knife against my throat. I just couldn't believe what was happening to me. I was expecting to be questioned, not assaulted.

"I just hope that if this happens to someone in the future it should be someone higher up getting the sack."

Mr Colcomb said he was arrested and taken to Medway police station following the attack, but that he was never charged with the robbery he



ASSAULTED: Anthony Colcomb

was accused of. It was during his three-and-a-half hour stint in the cells that he learned the two officers had themselves been arrested, after a third colleague who was also present at Mr Colcomb's flat informed his superiors of what had happened.

A subsequent investigation into the matter found Sgt Tingly and PC Barlow did not follow the correct procedures when arresting or cautioning him, and were therefore not acting in the lawful execution of their duty.

Mr Colcomb said: "I am still amazed and disgusted by what happened and hope I can now get on with my life.

"I sincerely hope the police do learn from this so no other innocent people have to go through the same ordeal I have."

In relation to the attack on Mr Colcomb, Kent Police paid an out-of-court settlement of £14,000.

Police hunt vandals after trees snapped

MORE than a dozen newly-planted trees have been snapped by vandals.

The damage was carried out to the trees in Shipwrights Avenue, Chatham, between 7.30pm and 10.30pm on Friday, April 23.

Neighbourhood officer PC Rebecca Roch said: "All of the trees were snapped using considerable force.

"Kent Police will not tolerate mindless vandalism and would urge anyone with information to come forward. We have spoken to a number of residents in the area but would like to hear from anyone who saw people causing the damage."

Anyone with information about the damage is asked to call police on 01622 690690 quoting crime reference number DY/006470/10.

Students battle it out in annual boat race

STUDENT rowers take to the water next month for the fourth annual Universities at Medway Boat Race.

Teams from the three Medway universities – Kent, Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church – will battle it out over the 2.6-mile River Medway course in a bid to gain the bragging rights over their rivals.

The University of Greenwich won double honours last year, with both their men's and women's teams triumphing in their respective races.

The races will take place between Cuxton and the Esplanade, Rochester on Saturday, May 15, with the first race set to start at 2pm.

Two charged after attack in pub toilets

TWO men have been charged with grievous bodily harm following an assault in a pub toilet.

Lee Kelly, 37, from The Terrace, Rochester and 35-year old Fraser Scott, from Ipswich, were arrested after the assault on Saturday, January 30. A 35-year-old Rochester man was attacked in the George Vaults in the High Street, leaving him with injuries to his face and eye.

The two men have been released on bail to appear at Medway Magistrates Court on June 2.

If you have any information, call Medway Police Station on 01634 792423 or CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Would-be raiders told to think twice before targetting bookies

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

sensible would-be thief would be advised to think again."

Detective Inspector Ann Lisseman said: "The majority of the robberies have been carried out by a single offender.

"The crimes currently appear to be opportunistic and there is no evidence to suggest they are linked to organised criminal gangs. However these offences still cause distress to the staff in the shop and also any customers who may be there at the time.

"Kent Police in Medway has been working closely with regional bookmaker managers to ensure tough security measures are in place. All

Raids

Coral bookmakers, Friary Precinct, Strood
 Coral bookmakers, Gun Lane, Strood
 Choice Bet bookmakers, High Street, Snodland
 Coral bookmakers, Friary Precinct, Strood
 Ladbrokes bookmakers, Holborough Road, Snodland
 William Hill bookmakers, High Street, Strood
 Metrobet, High Street, Rochester
 William Hill, Barnsole Road, Gillingham

Sunday, November 29, 2009
 Monday, November 30, 2009
 Wednesday, December 2, 2009
 Wednesday, January 13
 Friday, January 15
 Monday, January 18
 Monday, April 12
 Wednesday, April 21

bookmakers are covered by CCTV and other crime prevention measures.

"Whilst we have made arrests in connection with all but one of these robberies, we are still actively asking witnesses or anyone with information to come forward.

"If an individual is found guilty of armed robbery, they will receive a substantial prison sentence.

"We are fully committed to working hard to ensure the persons responsible for these serious crimes are brought to justice."

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Surprise supermarket sweep by Tory heavy-hitter Hague

ELECTION 2010

BY SIMON ROBINSON

FORMER Tory leader William Hague met staff and shoppers at Asda supermarket during a day-long tour of the county.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary – regarded as Conservative party leader David Cameron's second in command – took a brief tour of the superstore last Wednesday.

During his whistlestop stay at Asda he spoke informally with shopper John Barnes, whose hairstyle he jokingly likened to his own.

Mr Barnes, 73, of Thorndale Close, Chatham, said: "I like him and I think his haircut is quite smart as well. I think he's a good public speaker who comes across as pretty genuine."

"I always vote Conservative and will do so once again on May 6. I hope they get in."

It wasn't all jokes and smiles for Mr Hague, as Labour Party member Rob Knight challenged the Conservative outside the store.

The 31-year-old web designer, from Maidstone, quizzed Mr Hague on his party's plans to slash spending and was disappointed with his response.

He said: "The economy is in recovery, the latest figures out show we're on the way up. So why cut spending now and risk it all?"

"I think the least he could have done was stop and talk to me but he didn't stop at all."

Speaking about his visit and the run-in with



WELL AISLE BE: Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague during his tour of the Asda superstore

Mr Knight, Mr Hague said: "I didn't expect to win over everybody. But through speaking with shoppers and staff at Asda it's clear the main concerns are jobs, the economy and education."

"That's not surprising as those are the main concerns of voters across the country."

"They want to know which party will get the country going again. Stopping Labour's tax on jobs is essential to that."

When questioned on why he had been sent to Kent, Mr Hague said: "There are a lot of important constituencies around Kent including

Chatham, which Labour held last time, but gaining these seats is part of making the change. They are the seats that will decide who will be in government in a week's time."

"To get the recovery going and the economy moving we need these constituencies to vote Conservative."

And speaking about Conservative candidate Tracey Crouch, Mr Hague said: "We've got some great candidates around Kent and Tracey Crouch will be marvellous."

"She's a great candidate because of her dedica-

tion to the area. She will bring youth, sparkle and energy to Parliament and I think that's what Parliament needs."

Ms Crouch, who is contesting Jonathan Shaw's Chatham and Aylesford seat, said: "Having Mr Hague come to my constituency gives me a huge boost. It's a privilege to have him here and great to have his endorsement."

"He's full of confidence and the shoppers have really enjoyed speaking to him. People were stopping him as he walked around Asda."

"His visit has been great."

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



William Hague and Tory candidate Tracey Crouch meet shoppers in Asda at Chatham. Search 'Hague'

LIST OF CANDIDATES

CHATHAM & AYLESFORD

Jonathan Shaw – Labour
Tracey Crouch – Conservative
John McClintock – Liberal Democrat
Stephen Newton – UKIP
Sean Varnham – English Democrat
Dave Arthur – Green Party
Maureen Smith – Christian Party
Colin McCarthy-Stewart – BNP

GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

Paul Clark – Labour
Rehman Chishti – Conservative
Andrew Stamp – Liberal Democrat
Bob Oakley – UKIP
Dean Lacey – English Democrat
Trish Marchant – Green Party
George Meegan – Medway Independent
Gordon Bryan – Independent
Brian Ravenscroft – BNP

ROCHESTER & STROOD

Teresa Murray – Labour
Mark Reckless – Conservative
Geoff Juby – Liberal Democrat
Simon Marchant – Green Party
Ron Sands – English Democrat

Cooper joins Clark on campaign trail

LABOUR minister Yvette Cooper has become the third party powerhouse to support Paul Clark's bid to be re-elected in Gillingham and Rainham.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions joined Mr Clark at Napier Primary School and Macklands sheltered accommodation and spoke with parents and residents.

The high-profile visit to Gillingham follows those made by Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Transport Secretary of State Lord Adonis in the last two weeks.

Speaking outside Napier Primary, Ms Cooper said: "We're here to talk to parents about important issues like child tax credits."

"These credits were introduced by Labour and have been a great success, but the Tories and Liberal Democrats both want to cut them for everyone but the poorest families."

"We just don't think this is fair."

Mr Clark added: "Labour is doing so much to help families in the constituency and it's important that local people realise that."

"Child tax credits are invaluable to so many families, as is Sure Start, another scheme the Tories want to cut back."



SUPPORT: Yvette Cooper and Paul Clark talk to parents outside Napier Primary School

"We're here to tell people about this and make sure they know what the choices are."

After talking to the parents at the school, the campaign trail led to the Macklands accommodation in Gillingham, where they spoke about key Labour initiatives, such as the proposed National Care Service.

Sheltered housing manager Pat Black said: "It was great to have Yvette Cooper and Paul Clark visit today."

"Everybody enjoyed speaking to them and I'm grateful that they took the time to come see what we're doing here."

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SIX YEARS: Kevin Gordon Bennett



TWO YEARS: Stuart John McCall



FOUR YEARS: Nigel Kevin White

Drug baron trio put behind bars

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THREE drug dealers have been jailed for their involvement in bringing more than £1.5million worth of cannabis into the country.

Kevin Gordon Bennett, Stuart John McCall and Nigel Kevin White, all from Rochester, were charged with a range of offences in September 2009 after a major police operation tracked their drug-smuggling operation.

Large shipments of cannabis were imported via Heathrow airport and Southampton docks, hidden in picture frames and computer desks.

Two consignments heading for a Rochester address were found to contain drugs with a street value of £720,000 and £832,000.

Officers swooped on the Rochester property and found two operational cannabis factories, one of which was built behind a false wall within a garage.

More than £200,000 of cannabis was found at the premises, along with a black stun gun.

The men were charged on September 29, 2009.

Bennett, 46, of Glovers Mill, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import cannabis, conspiracy to supply cannabis, conspiracy to cultivate cannabis and possession of a section one firearm (taser).

He was sentenced to six years in total – five years for importation/supply of cannabis, six months for cultivating cannabis and six months for the stun gun.

McCall, 42, also of Glovers Mill, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cannabis and

was sentenced to two years and nine months behind bars.

White, 29, of Bligh Way, was found guilty of conspiracy to supply cannabis.

The jury found him not guilty of conspiracy to cultivate cannabis and possession of a firearm.

He was sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Kent Police's Det Sgt Andy Nicoll said: "Drugs have a devastating impact on our communities.

"We will take every step possible to ensure that illegal drugs are removed from circulation within our county.

"Today's sentencing has not only removed £1.5million of cannabis from our streets, but also three offenders who have been sentenced for their crimes."

CRIMINAL SHIPMENTS

September 3, 2009

Officers were informed of a consignment at Heathrow airport which had been imported from Asia.

The shipment contained picture frames but following further examination, officers found 40 silver foil bags containing cannabis underneath the picture frames.

The estimated street value of this consignment is believed to be £720k.

September 18, 2009

Officers were alerted to a shipment at Southampton docks which had also been imported from Asia.

The shipment was found to contain computer desks. However, further examination showed that some of the flat-pack boxes also contained eight silver foil bags containing cannabis.

The estimated street value of this shipment is believed to be £831,800.

end and the half term school holidays."

For more information, visit www.the-dockyard.co.uk.



STORYTELLING: There's plenty on at the Dockyard

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Child raced on quad bike

A NUISANCE biker has been reprimanded by police after she was caught racing a quad bike with a child in her arms.

The 21-year-old was seen driving the vehicle up and down Meadsidewalk, Chatham, at 12.45pm on Friday, April 9.

She admitted using the vehicle while carrying a child. Neither were wearing crash helmets.

Officers seized the bike as the owner did not have any insurance. The woman was also given a warning about her future conduct.

Neighbourhood officer PC Paul Withrington said: "Residents were clearly concerned about a woman who was allegedly carrying a young child on a quad bike with no helmet.

"Once we had spoken to the woman concerned, given her a warning, and seized the bike, the residents were very satisfied with the outcome."

OAP assaulted and robbed

A PENSIONER was punched and robbed by two preying thieves, prompting a police appeal for witnesses to come forward.

The 76-year-old victim, from Rochester, was attacked in Mill Road, Gillingham, at 4.50pm on Wednesday, April 14. He was approached by two black men as he made his way from Barclays Bank, in the high street, to his car.

The men punched the pensioner in the face before stealing an envelope containing a substantial amount of money.

Call police on 01634 792474 or Kent CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Outdoor TV for summer

FOOTBALL fans and film buffs may have a new open-air venue for the summer if planning permission is granted for a Chatham Maritime site.

Dickens World bosses have put forward proposals to build a fans' enclosure in the visitor attraction's car park.

The plan would see sporting events and feature length films shown on a giant LED screen, with refreshment served at an open marquee bar.

If given the go-ahead it is hoped the site will be up and running in time for the opening ceremony of the World Cup on Friday, June 11.



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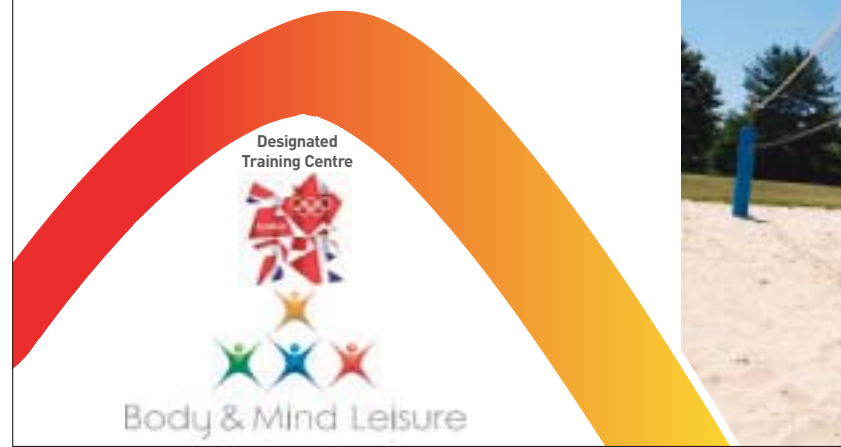
Ahoy there, hear tales of the seas

FEARSOME pirates will regale landlubbin' youngsters with tales of the seven seas at Chatham Historic Dockyard from tomorrow.

The story sessions will be held on board HMS Gannet on Thursday, April 29, and Friday 30.

A range of family entertainment has been arranged for the whole weekend, including a Mad Hatter's party in the Commissioner's Garden, rocket building workshops and a fancy dress competition.

A dockyard spokesman said: "We have so much to entertain the whole family throughout the May Bank Holiday week-



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Snoop is force's pedigree chum

A STRAY has become Medway police's newest recruit after proving he had the right pedigree for the job.

Snoop, a lively one-year-old cocker spaniel cross, was being cared for at Battersea Dogs Home after being found in London by shelter volunteers. Staff called Medway police after noticing Snoop's potential.

Dog handler PC Neil Loudon said: "We were called to see if we'd take a look at Snoop and he was perfect. I've had him since December and he's very boisterous, nosey and just loves being a police dog."

Snoop completed an eight-week training course and is now able to sniff out drugs, cash and weapons.



RECRUIT: Snoop with handler PC Neil Loudon

Steam-rollered by history



BEFORE: The red-brick Edwardian facade of the Aveling and Porter building



AFTER: A very different scene on the waterfront at Strood after demolition

THE historic red-brick Aveling and Porter building in Strood has been levelled.

The waterfront Edwardian property has been reduced to rubble, along with the neighbouring Civic Centre, to make way for a temporary car park.

Medway Council intends to sell the entire riverside site to developers. Cllr Stephen Hubbard was among a determined group of campaigners who fought to keep the A&P building standing.

The Labour representative – who took these before and after photographs – said: "I feel a great sense of loss every time I look out of the office window.

"The sound of demolition is the constant background throughout the day. I'm still angry that the council saw fit to destroy this gateway build-

BY SIMON ROBINSON

ing, which dominated the Strood end of Rochester Bridge for more than 100 years.

"Tourists to Rochester Castle would often stand on the battlements above the Castle Hill entrance and take photos of the bridge and view across to Strood. They don't do so now."

Contractors set to work on the waterfront landmark in December, despite strong opposition from Cllr Hubbard, Save Britain's Heritage (SBH) and a band of Medway campaigners.

It had been hoped the former industrial warehouse could be saved from demolition after SBH secretary William Palin described the site as "of architectural merit" and a petition was signed by more than 1,000 supporters.

But council money-men pushed forward with

their plans after a report put the annual cost of retaining the building at £139,000.

Council chiefs also said keeping the building standing would wipe £850,000 off the Civic Centre site's value to potential developers.

A Medway Council spokesman said: "The ground will be laid out for public parking, which will help local businesses and commuters who want to catch high-speed trains from Strood.

"The site has not been sold but, once cleared, will allow for new developments that are a crucial part of Strood's regeneration, with a new mixed-use development that will complement the riverside site."

The demolished building was built in 1906 as the headquarters of Aveling and Porter, manufacturers of agricultural engines.

The firm built its first steam engine in 1861 and went on to become the world's leading producer of steam rollers.

Pictures STEPHEN HUBBARD



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JOHN MCCLINTOCK



Q What will be your first actions if you get elected?

A I will have an office in the constituency that will be open at least five days a week. I will hold regular surgeries in easily accessible places. I will ask residents annually to complete a survey about what matters to them and report back on what I am doing.

Q Drink, drugs and anti-social behaviour are perceived to be a problem in Chatham - how will you deal with these?

A People are citizens and this means they have certain rights accorded to them (eg free education, free health services). But, by the same token, it means also they have responsibilities (eg to act with respect and without causing offence).

Q Are you in favour of a selective secondary school system or do you prefer the new multi-skills academies?

A I prefer a comprehensive system in which schools are smaller and given the means to educate pupils to a high standard. But I am not sure if this is achievable in the current climate.

Q Do you believe that apprenticeships should be pushed as an alternative to higher education?

A Yes, definitely and this is something the Lib Dems will strongly support.

Q How will you improve health care services?

A The present system is too bureaucratic and managers spend too much time filling in

ELECTION 2010

forms and trying to reach targets. The Lib Dems will cut the number of managers by abolishing the Strategic Health Authorities and replacing them with locally-elected bodies. This will save money for frontline services.

Q How has Chatham benefitted from the HS1 link and what will you do to ensure these benefits continue?

A Anyone travelling to North London and the Midlands and the North will benefit from shorter journey times; however commuters are suffering from fewer peak time services to Cannon Street and Victoria, alongside paying a premium for rail fares.

There is too much traffic on the roads, trains are expensive and buses are too few. The Lib Dems will cut rail fares by renegotiating the deals with train companies. We will set up a National Infrastructure Bank to help attract private finance for improved rail services.

Q How will you encourage businesses in the wake of the recession?

A We will oblige banks to lend to businesses. We are in the teeth of the longest recession on record because Labour and the Tories before them built a precarious economy that was too dependent on the City of London and soaring house prices. We will set up Local Enter-

prise Funds and Regional Stock Exchanges to help businesses grow outside London.

Q How will you encourage new businesses to take up the empty shops on the High Street and retail areas?

A High Streets throughout Britain are often the losers when out of town shopping and retail centres are created. The long-term solution is to find a balance between the two, so that High Streets do not decline when large supermarkets are built on the edges of towns.

Q How will you get the electorate out to the polls, bucking recent trends for low-turn outs?

A I will remind them of one simple fact: people have died so that we can have democracy. Out of respect for them, you should go to the polling booth.

I will also point out that if they want Vince Cable as chancellor, they had better come to the polling booths and state their opinion.

Q How well or otherwise do you think Jonathan Shaw has done?

A He has done a good job as a local MP. But he has not exercised sound judgement or followed his conscience on the national issues. For instance, he has not spoken out in the defence of our freedoms and civil liberties.

Worse, he voted in favour of the Iraq war. This has been a near-disaster for our country. In voting for the war, he was complicit in the violation of international law. Britain has lost credibility as a world leader with moral principles.

Q&A

The Liberal Democrat candidate for Chatham and Aylesford talks to **Mathew Beech** about education, transport, defending our high streets and why it's so important people come out to cast their vote

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QUESTION & ANSWER

PAUL CLARK



Q How will you help tackle drink, drugs and anti-social behaviour issues in the area and ease public concern?

A As your constituency MP, this is an issue I've been dealing with since I was elected in 1997. Since Labour came to power, overall crime has gone down by over a third and violent crime has gone down by 41 per cent. My key election pledges include campaigning for the extension of alcohol control zones and dispersal orders, more neighbourhood policing, and the promotion of community payback schemes, which put back into the community and are proven to reduce the numbers of those who re-offend.

Q With a number of grammar schools in the area, how do you see secondary education developing?

A Under the Schools Act of 1998, we introduced trigger and ballot mechanisms for parents in selective education to have a ballot to keep or get rid of grammar schools. So provisions are there if parents want to get rid of them. But pre-1997 budgets were such that there was a greater share of resources going to grammar schools. Today that is not the case and better resourced non-selective schools are showing great results. There will also be academies.

Q How are you going to maintain or improve healthcare services when public spending cuts need to be made?

A NHS waiting lists have fallen by more than half a million under Labour. The NHS is now delivering the shortest waits on record, and carries out two million more operations

ELECTION 2010

each year than it did in 1997. We have vowed to protect these frontline services. We want to maintain an NHS which is clinically driven, patient-centred and responsive to local communities, and based on need not ability to pay.

Q How are you planning to help small and medium-sized businesses, as well as the self-employed recover and grow following the recession?

A Small and medium-sized businesses are key to securing the recovery and Labour has introduced a series of measures to support them. We're allowing businesses more time to pay tax bills through Time to Pay; we're helping small business start-ups and growing businesses through a temporary increase in Small Business Rate Relief. Also, Lloyds Banking Group and RBS will lend £41 billion to small businesses in the next year.

Q What will you do to help reduce the number of unemployed people and those not in education or training?

A Labour's strong and decisive action on unemployment is working. The claimant count stands today at just 1.6 million people, compared with three million in the early 1980s and 90s. Our Future Jobs Fund will continue to create jobs; our Young Person's Guarantee has

been extended and will continue to offer all 18-24-year-olds who have been out of work for six months or more a guarantee of a job or training.

Q What are your plans for people who require care homes?

A A National Care Service will be implemented in three stages on the best principles of the NHS, with all contributing and benefiting from the service. Firstly, the Personal Care at Home Bill will provide free care to the 400,000 people who most need it and intensive help or "reablement" when they need homecare for the first time. Stage two will put the foundation of the National Care Service in place. From 2014 free care will be extended so anyone staying in residential care will get free care after their second year. Stage three will be the introduction of a comprehensive service that is free when people need it for all adults with an eligible need.

Q In what areas will you make cutbacks in public spending?

A Securing the recovery is our priority and Labour has pledged to halve the deficit in four years - this will require some deep cuts. But we are committed to doing this whilst protecting frontline services. When growth is secure, we will cut the borrowing. Our plan is to halve the deficit by 2013/14. This means cutting borrowing by £78bn. £19bn of that comes from increased taxes, £38bn comes from cuts to public spending.

Q&A

The Labour candidate for Gillingham and Rainham talks to **Mathew Beech** about improving healthcare, tackling crime and the need for major cuts in public spending to secure the country's economic recovery

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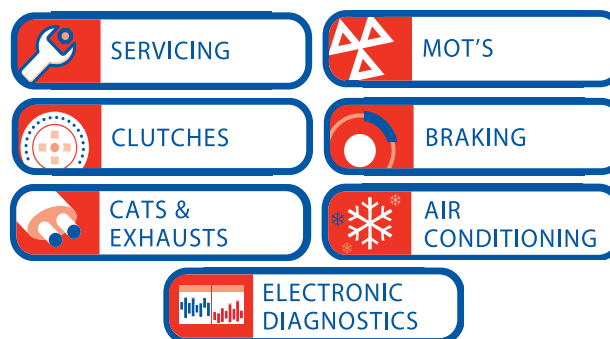
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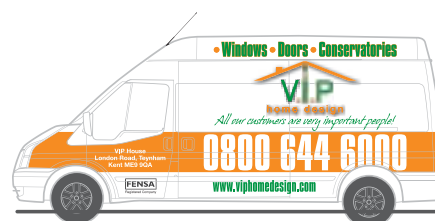


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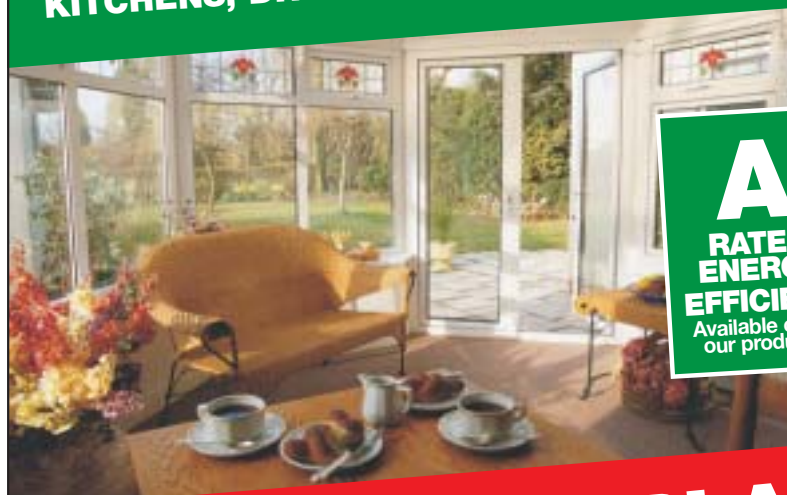
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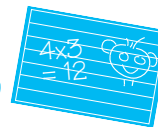
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BREAK TIME

College head's close shave with princess

A COLLEGE principal has shaved his head for charity just hours after his brush with royalty.

MidKent College's principal and chief executive Stephen Grix had his hair cut less than four hours after The Princess Royal had left the official opening of the new Medway campus.

College enrichment coordinator Michelle Bigg said: "On what has been a particularly great day for us, it seems fitting to remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

"In January, our students began a long-term campaign to raise money for earthquake victims in Haiti.

"At this time Stephen vowed to part with his hair to boost donations.

"When he made this promise he had only one request – that he be allowed to wait until after The Princess Royal's visit – so we thought we might as well do it on the same day."

Hair design student Natalie Hunt trimmed his hair in front of a crowd of students after Her Royal Highness left.

The 23-year-old student from Gillingham said: "It has been an honour. "It's not every day you get to shave the head of your college principal and raise money for charity at the same time."

The stunt contributed £200 towards the current total of more than £1,000 for Haiti's earthquake victims.



HAIR TODAY: Natalie Hunt and Stephen Grix

Professor sows seeds of global energy project

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

THE University of Greenwich is leading an international biofuel project for developing African countries.

Professor Patricia Harvey is helping to develop sustainable sources of green energy for South Africa, Ghana and Namibia.

The current research is focussing on gaining fuel from the oil of Jatropha tree seeds and from marine micro-algae.

The oil is produced by the Jatropha tree and the seeds can be used directly to power unmodified diesel engines.

The Jatropha tree is drought-resistant, can be grown in poor or marginal soils and is currently used as a hedging plant in many African countries.

A high-quality vegetable oil is produced by the quick reproduction and multiplication of the marine micro-algae.

This vegetable oil has a variety of uses in different forms of fuel.

Further research is also being carried out into producing biogases from processed agricultural and food waste.

The main aim of the three-year project is to

develop a sustainable fuel supply to replace fossil fuels and support alternative power generation without damaging agricultural land.

Professor Harvey, head of Bioenergy Research at the University of Greenwich School of Science, is working alongside academics, scientists and decision-makers from Namibia, Ghana, South Africa, Italy and the UK.

She said: "This is a tremendous challenge but it is essential that we find replacements for fossil fuels and new ways of distributing biofuels and alternative sources of energy between these countries if their economies are to grow.

"There is a huge will for the research to succeed.

"Every university in South Africa attended our first project workshop, which also included 100 representatives from government and industry at all levels.

"We will be sharing our knowledge and expertise to identify any barriers to the development of non-food biofuels in each area.

"We can then work with our partners, other organisations and governments to understand and address these challenges.

"I am confident that by working together, under the auspices of this EU-funded ACP Action, we will succeed in developing sustain-



BRANCHING OUT: Professor Patricia Harvey from the University of Greenwich is leading the biofuel research

able non-food biofuels and alternative energy industries which can be linked across countries and regions."

Eight further workshops are being planned with the financial support of the European Union in Africa, Italy and the UK.

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HAPPY DAYS: An increasing number of youngsters are signing up to join in the Scouting movement fun

Looking for adventure

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

THE biggest membership surge in 38 years suggests the Scouting Movement in Kent is battling back against video games and the internet.

Just over 500 youngsters signed up last year – the largest increase since 1972 – meaning a total of 18,267 are now living Robert Baden-Powell's vision throughout the county.

There are also a record number of teenage Scouts in Kent, with the figure currently standing at 2,427 – about 25 per cent more than when the information was first collated in 2001.

And membership will likely increase for the sixth year running in 2011 if the current 1,000-name waiting list is anything to go by.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls said: "It's fantastic to witness such a huge surge in Scouting – the biggest growth for 38 years – and proof that Scouting is appealing more and more to

teenagers. Scouting is empowering, wild and fun, and offers so many adventure-based activities for young people and adults alike.

"My goal is for every young person who wants to be involved in Scouting to be able to be. So I hope to inspire even more adults to volunteer and help this happen."

The Scout Movement began in 1907 when Baden-Powell – a Lieutenant General in the British Army – held the first Scouting encampment at Brownsea Island, Dorset.

His aim from the beginning was to support young people in their "physical, mental and spiritual development", so they could play constructive roles in society.

Today there are more than 28 million Scouts around the world, with girls also now allowed to join.

And despite recent technological advancements such as video gaming and the internet,

the Scouts have adapted to change with successful ideas such as the IT badge.

However, the movement still relies heavily on outdoor activities such as camping, water-skiing and abseiling to draw youngsters in.

But despite the membership surge in Kent, the increase in volunteers is less than one per cent – well below the UK average of 3.1 per cent.

This means the number of children on the Scout waiting list is up by a massive 23.8 per cent from last year compared to the national average of 0.4 per cent.

Kent leader John Hunt urged other would-be volunteers to follow in his footsteps.

He said: "I absolutely love being a leader. I decided to get involved because I wanted to give something back to young people in my community, but I've really benefited as well."

"I've been able to transfer the skills I've developed as a leader to my day job, and that's been really important to me."

• Visit www.kentscouts.org.uk to find out more.

Steel rope reins in foreign motorists

NEW powers are helping Kent Police clamp down on foreign motorists who had been getting away with serious breaches of the law.

Since last year, the force has had the power to disable vehicles belonging to overseas visitors if they can't pay on-the-spot fines.

Between April, 2009, and March, 2010, Kent officers immobilised 125 vehicles using a steel rope padlocked around a wheel and the chassis. Police say the new law also means there have been fewer collisions and casualties on the county's roads.

Kent Police said that between April and October, 2008, there were 43 collisions and 68 casualties on our roads involving non-UK registered goods vehicles.

During the same period the following year, that fell to 34 collisions and 47 casualties. Before the new laws, police said their hands were tied. Officers were unable to issue fixed penalty notices to non-UK registered drivers because there was no guarantee a penalty would be paid within 28 days.

There was also no provision for checking whether or not they had committed previous offences that would lead to an automatic driving disqualification in the UK.

Roadside fines

The powers were given by the Road Safety Act 2006, which received its national launch in Kent in April, 2009.

It ensures traffic legislation is now applied to all drivers on UK roads. Provisions allow non-UK drivers, and even British residents who can't provide a valid address, to be handed roadside fines of up to £900. Police can request immediate deposit in sterling or by credit card.

If they can't pay, the vehicle is immobilised until payment is made. Police can also immobilise defective vehicles until they are repaired, or until commercial vehicle drivers have taken a break if they exceed permitted driving times.

Officers say fear of detection is now higher because of the new enforcement tactics.

In the first year of the scheme, Kent Police have taken 1,464 'roadside deposits' amounting to £40,500. The fines are audited, and the cash goes to Treasury coffers.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "As with all penalty notices, we do not retain any revenue or receive administration costs, so there is no cash incentive."

"The introduction of the deposit scheme allows police to enforce the law fairly and consistently, regardless of where drivers are from."

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YOUR LETTERS



Parties' EU policies are all identical

Why vote for any of the failed old parties? After all, they have just one, common, tired old policy: they wholeheartedly support the EU.

But to do so means they also support transferring any powers remaining at Westminster to an unaccountable regime in Brussels (75 per cent has already been transferred); establishing unaccountable regional governments that bypass Westminster and act directly on Brussels' orders (they already exist but are in stealth mode), abolishing the House of Commons. What no-one can explain to me is why anyone would want to be an MP with such a policy; why would anyone want to be an MP and work for Westminster's demise? Alternatively on Thursday, May 6, voters can vote for a party that believes in freedom, self determination and democracy.

David Waller, UKIP candidate, Tonbridge & Malling, comment posted at www.yourmedway.co.uk

Sorry, Hunting Act pledge worries me

I won't be voting Conservative because the party leadership has vowed that if they win this election they will repeal the Hunting Act.

The fact that at least 75 per cent of the population are against this law makes me worry we are going to be bullied into accepting other policies that are only supported by the minority. That is not a democratic process and I don't want to be associated with any candidate that agrees with this.

T Hancock, comment posted at www.yourmedway.co.uk

Try scary website experiment at home

One way of avoiding the media hype and focus on personalities rather than issues is to judge the policies directly without even knowing which party promotes each one.

The website whogetsmyvote.com allows this, and it's quite scary at times (I had no idea I would choose the Labour option on one policy and the Tory one on another).

I will be visiting the site many times until the election and am quite sure it may affect which way I vote. Worth a look.

Descartes, comment posted at www.yourmedway.co.uk

your blogger

Just because Jack May, 15, can't vote doesn't mean he has nothing to say about the election ...



Jack May has been on work experience with KOS Media. Here he gives his view of what the General Election means to him.

I AM a 15-year-old pupil from Ashford and too young to vote this time.

I enjoy most sports, preferably football and cricket. I also enjoy listening to and playing music, just like many boys my age.

Currently, the General Election is pretty much the only news item on the agenda and on the front of every newspaper.

Politics doesn't particularly interest me, however I understand the importance of the event but do feel it is being hyped up a little too much.

If you gave me the choice, I wouldn't want any of the candidates as Prime Minister of our country.

They are all about themselves and have turned becoming PM and politics into a fight and who can come out on top, rather than who can offer the best for the country.

The way they constantly take digs at one another is childish – and the national papers do nothing to help. They all try to pick out the problems in each other's policies, rather than focusing on their own.

Personally, I see all the candidates as fake and not really in touch with everyday life. They are all too posh and don't seem to understand what normal people want. The country as a whole needs a change of direction and Gordon Brown seems to have caused

nothing but trouble since he took over from Tony Blair. If Britain is to come out of the recession unscathed, Labour cannot be the party to lead the country, in my view.

To me, Mr Brown seems an arrogant man, throwing his toys out of his pram when he can't get his own way. This is not the kind of man Britain needs as a leader. That leaves the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

Now, being a teenager below voting age, I have little idea what any of their specific policies are, so have to base my judgement on what I have read and seen from their public performances.

In the first televised leaders' debate (which I didn't watch as I had better things to do) the Lib Dems and Nick Clegg seemed to win over the public.

However, in the run up to the second debate last Thursday, the national press were targeting Mr Clegg for some things he has said. Some papers suggested he wasn't the right man to lead the country either.

This leaves the Conservatives and David Cameron, who goes about his business quietly and seems like an alright guy.

He seems to have a good public persona and can see the funny side (referring to egg-throwing incident, for example) and is not always serious (which can get a bit boring).

From what I have seen and heard, the Tories are top of most polls and offer the best policies. For this reason, I would vote for them on May 6.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.



And yet more units are being planned

What does it matter how we compare to the national average?

The fact remains we have too many empty units and parking charges are keeping people away.

And Medway Council still intends to build more retail units at Chatham Riverside, undermining the high streets further.

The council seems determined to turn our high streets into tumbleweed town centres.

Lisa, Chatham, comment posted at www.yourmedway.co.uk

• Great piece on empty Medway shops.

Exactly the kind of thing people need to know.

Stroodlights, via Twitter

Choir so grateful for church's kindness



My husband, David Clark, is one of the choir members and I would like to offer my grateful thanks to the kind folk at St Barnabas's Church for looking after everyone so hand-somely.

Let's hope they don't have to spend too long waiting in Edmonton for a flight home.

Angela Clark, Chatham, comment posted on www.yourmedway.co.uk

• I am the mother of one of the four 17-year-old girl choristers on tour.

I would like to add my thanks and appreciation to everyone involved looking after the choir and especially the under-18s.

It was awful when she seemed low at one point partly because she would miss my birthday.

We thank God for wonderful people who when the need arises come together as one family.

I would rather my daughter was grounded but safe with these lovely people than in the air.

We miss our daughter very much but are happy to know that she is safe. This situation just renews my confidence in human nature.

In this day and age it seems everyone is out for themselves, what a fantastic example of the opposite.

I will always be grateful to these amazing strangers for keeping my daughter safe and fed with a place to stay.

I am also very grateful to the older members of the choir party who while missing their own families have still looked after the younger members.

I sincerely thank everyone involved!

Angela George, Rochester, comment posted on www.yourmedway.co.uk

Double standards on parking in our street

With reference to Medway's mobile CCTV car, I have read both comments for and against the cars and agree with certain points from both sides.

But I still think this idea of ticketing people for double parking when they are clearly not, is just a money-making scam and have checked in the dictionary and the Highway Code to conclude that their double parking wording is contradictory to both.



They need to get more signs out to make residents aware of exactly how and where they can park, and then there will be no problems for people caught breaking the law.

After having a recent meeting with a member of the parking enforcement office, she finally agreed that more parking spaces should be made available for people living in our road.

Let's just hope Medway can prove it is a caring council or whether it will totally ignore the wishes of those it is supposed to represent.

Denise, comment posted on www.yourmedway.co.uk

This is no longer a two-horse race

I have been campaigning in Gillingham, Rainham and Parkwood shopping areas, and support is way better than I have received before.

This is the first election that voters have said I already have their vote.

The televised leaders' debates have made voters aware that it is no longer a two-horse race and that the old, failed parties can be ousted.

But although they like Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg, they don't like the policies of amnesty for illegal immigrants and ditching the pound, so many are looking at voting for UKIP.

It looks quite likely that with the fighting between the old parties, UKIP will make the gain.

Bob Oakley, UKIP candidate for Gillingham & Rainham, by email

MPs reneged on the smoking ban deal

This letter is for smokers like me.

At the last General Election, MPs Paul Clark and Jonathan Shaw made a deal to bring in a partial ban on smoking in public places if elected.

In February, 2006, they voted for a total ban.

This was a 'free vote' where they were under no government pressure, but they chose to renege on their deal.

If you or I made a promise to get a well-paid job and then did the opposite, we would be fired (at least) but MPs are actually above many of the laws we lesser mortals have to obey.

They are standing for election on May 6, so don't be fooled again. This time, vote for someone you think you can trust.

I ask you not to publish my name and address, as I do not want the forces of hell unleashed on me.

Name and address supplied, by letter



WHAT A NEUTER: Nick Topper and Yowsah

Rock icon joins RSPCA campaign

A CLAMPDOWN on aggressive dogs is sometimes the only way to prevent a white riot, claims The Clash's former lead singer Topper Headon.

Dover resident Topper – or rather Nick Staffie called Yowsah. When he was four he started to become aggressive and was trying to fight with other dogs all the time, and it wasn't enjoyable to take him out.

The rock icon said he wanted to get involved because he had first-hand experience of how difficult it can be for non-neutered dogs and their owners alike.

He said: "I have a fantastic 12-year-old Staffie called Yowsah. When he was four he started to become aggressive and was trying to fight with other dogs all the time, and it wasn't enjoyable to take him out."

"He was a changed dog afterwards – so much happier, calmer and much more fun to take out."

The RSPCA offer is for male and female dogs belonging to owners on benefits and living in the Dover and Deal area. The closing date to apply is May 14 but there are limited vouchers so it may close earlier if they are all snapped up.

Call 07955 913 556 for more information.

Recession bites as organic food sales decrease

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

Gerry Minister has run Luddesdown Organic Farm since 1986 and was one of the movement's pioneers.

He said: "People do think organic foods are more expensive, and at one time, they were. But these days there is very little between them, so cost really is not that big an issue these days."

"However, it is true that the price does appear very much differently by the time the products reach the supermarket shelves."

"If people were to come to our farm shop they would find the prices are almost the same."

Mr Minister farms 1,100 acres in the small village of Luddesdown near Gravesend. He said: "Sales of organic produce are all down, but I am surprised it is only down by 13 per cent, but I suppose that is an average."

"The recession started to effect us in 2008 and 2009 was not good. It's not picking up yet really."

"There are two factors – one is a perception of extra cost, but our retail shop doesn't reflect that."

"And the supermarket putting up prices and shrinking shelf space hasn't done us much good."

KENT'S organic farmers have backed the findings of a new report showing a rapid decline in the demand for their food products.

As the effects of the recession continue to bite, a report found sales of organic food, drink and other products slumped by almost 13 per cent last year.

Producers are finding consumers are shying away from organically grown products such as vegetables because they tend to be more expensive.

With all the belt-tightening going on, organic farmers in Kent are feeling those effects, too.

Alan Brockman helps run Perry Court Farm in Petham, near Canterbury. He said they used to supply a couple of dozens restaurants in the region, but many have gone out of business.

Mr Brockman, a partner in the company, said: "We have had very difficult times because we have had a lot of bad debts."

"That hasn't helped. It's all part of the recession. You need good credit ratings to survive. We have had to contract quite a lot."



PRICE CROP: Farm manager Gerry Minister tests the grain

"I think if people knew how prices are now, they would buy a lot more of it. If they come direct to us, they can see for themselves. They would see it is not all bad news."

The Organic Market Report 2010 found the worst trading climate for 20 years.

Home delivery organic vegetable and fruit boxes also fell out of favour, with a 9.8 per cent drop, while sales of organic goods in supermarkets fell by 12 per cent, and in the independent sector – farm shops and health food outlets – by almost 18 per cent.

In total across the UK, organic sales fell last year from a record high of £2.1bn in 2008 to £1.84bn, according to the report compiled annually by the Soil Association.

Dairy remains overall the most popular food category, accounting for 33 per cent of all sales.

Despite the publicity given to animal welfare by chefs such as Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, consumers also fell out of love with expensive organic meat.

The report said demand for organic beef fell by 30 per cent and lamb by 10 per cent with organic chicken production slashed by 20 per cent.

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■ Crayford Greyhound Track

THE Ladbrokes-owned Crayford Greyhound Track has been home to greyhound racing for over 70 years.

There are meetings five times a week – on Friday and Saturday nights at 7.30pm, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 2pm and on Saturday mornings at 10.30am.

Facilities include two licensed bars, a cafeteria serving hot and cold food and a licensed 250-seat restaurant with excellent views over the track.

Bangers and mash and fish and chips remain favourites, but the menu is extremely wide-ranging. There are betting outlets throughout the stadium and a full betting service is available for diners.

On Saturday mornings a popular brunch is served while the races are in progress.

Admission on Friday and Saturday evenings costs £6 including programme – great value for 12 races. Matinees on Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays are free.

The track is also used for charity events and recently raised more than £1,600 for Help for Heroes.

Individuals can sponsor races to celebrate events such as birthdays and anniversaries.

Races have taken place here since 1937, but a new stadium was opened in 1986 and celebrates its 25 anniversary next year.

Crayford Greyhound Track, Stadium Way, Crayford, DA1 4HR.
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Dessert: Strawberries with liquor
Telephone number: 01474 322131

See Ho

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DAY & NIGHT

A love story for April

SET in 1920s England, *Loving April* is a portrayal of a young woman trapped by society's strict values.

Oxfordshire Theatre Company presents the powerful love story at Lenham Community Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets, at £8, are available from the centre on 01622 853800, mornings only, or by calling 01622 858011.

TV's Big Chris roars in

CHILDREN'S favourite Roary the Racing Car will be appearing at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone's Classic Car Show.

The TV character and mechanic Big Chris can be seen in front of House of Fraser between 10.30am to 4.30pm on Sunday. There will also be classic cars and motorbikes on display. For details visit www.fremlinwalk.co.uk.

Music to help Heroes

ENJOY live music with Herofest at the Red Lion in Northfleet on Sunday.

With 45 bands performing over four stages, Herofest is a huge event which boasts big names like Kingskin, Tokyo Jo, Adelaide and Tyrannosaurus Alan.

The fun starts at 1pm and entry costs £5 with proceeds going to Help for Heroes.

Country fun for family

DISCOVER exciting activities and entertainment at the Kent County Fair.

Running at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood from Saturday to Bank Holiday Monday, the programme includes gun dog displays, pony club games, and family activities. Tickets are £10.50 in advance, £12.50 on the gate. For details visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

Flushed with laughter

GIRLS just want to have fun in the riotous musical *Hot Flush!* which visits Dartford next week.

Lesley Joseph leads the cast in a hilarious story about four women going through the menopause at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on Monday and Tuesday.

To book call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Have a ball at dockyard

CELEBRATE victory at the VE Day Ball at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

On Saturday, May 8, revellers are invited to enjoy an evening of 1940s music in this atmospheric setting. Tickets cost £12.50/£10 for adults, £8 for children and £33.50 for families of four. To book call 01634 823826 or visit www.thedockyard.co.uk.

Recorder festival dates

TALENTED young musicians will demonstrate the joys of the recorder at Mote Hall in Maidstone.

Kent Music's three-day Spring Recorder Festival involves more than 400 children and culminates in a concert at 7.30pm on Friday. Tickets cost £4 from Denise Milne on 01622 358435 or email dmilne@kent-music.com.

Take a chance on two timeless acts

Sing along to hits of Abba and the Bee Gees at ultimate tribute night

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Friday, April 30

Central Theatre, Chatham.



FANS of timeless pop will be in heaven with the toe-tapping tribute show, *Thank You For the Music*.

In the company of ABBA Magic and Bee Gees Magic, music lovers can enjoy a fantastic evening packed with unforgettable tunes and sing-along anthems.

So whether you long to demonstrate why you are a Dancing Queen or have been struck down with *Night Fever*, this show is sure to get those feet moving and transport you back to a golden age of disco.

Now in its 17th year, *Thank You For the Music* has been filling venues for longer than ABBA's reign as the kings and queens of pop. Expect rousing performances of all your favourite hits, along with infectious dance routines, a new set list and captivating costumes.

For four decades, ABBA have been delighting established fans and finding new audiences with their unforgettable songs. Even those who are too young to remember the hits the first time around will still know songs like *Super Trouper* and *Take A Chance On Me*, thanks to the success of the hit stage and screen musical, *Mamma Mia!* Meryl Streep and Piers Brosnan starred in the film version, which took the music of ABBA to a whole new audience.

The Swedish band – Anni-Frid Lyngstad, better known as Frida, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Agnetha Faltskog – formed in 1970, little knowing that they were to become arguably the most iconic pop group of all time.

With their song *Waterloo*, they won the 1973 Eurovision Song Contest, marking the start of a phenomenally successful career in which they dominated the charts in many countries.

Over the years they recorded 19 top 20 hits and hit the number one spot nine times. But more than this, their music has endured over the decades and still receives constant radio airplay, while no disco or karaoke evening would be complete without a rendition of *Dancing Queen*, *The Winner Takes It All* or *Knowing Me, Knowing You*.

Martin Spooner, who plays Bjorn in the show, spoke about the extraordinary effect ABBA had on the music world and their fans. "Few bands can claim to have made as big an impact on British pop music history," he said. "Their million-selling hits, such as *The Name of the Game* and *Mamma Mia*, are eternal. ABBA's music is as popular now as it was in their 70s and 80s heyday. *Thank You For the Music* continues this incredible legacy."

The Bee Gees have also released a huge catalogue of timeless music, and their unmistakable style continues to enthrall their fans.



With the soundtrack for hit movie *Saturday Night Fever*, the band produced truly iconic tunes that fill dance floors to this day. They have also written hits for other artists.

With numbers such as *Stayin' Alive*, *Massachusetts* and *How Deep Is Your Love*, the Bee Gees have more than earned their place in the hearts and record collections of

millions of fans. Fans now have the chance to hear those fantastic songs played live once again in this exciting and affectionate celebration of two musical greats.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£17. Book online at www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01634 338338.



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ROCHESTER SWEEPS' FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 1 to Monday, May 3, Town centre, Rochester

CELEBRATE May Day in traditional style when the Rochester Sweeps Festival takes over the town this weekend.

With more than 100,000 visitors expected, the festival will be one of the most entertaining events taking place in Kent. It is now the biggest gathering of Morris dancers in the country and more than 70 sides from across the UK are expected to descend on Rochester.

Visitors and residents can look forward to performances by street entertainers, dancers and chimney sweeps. Cara Dillon and BBC Radio Two Folk Award

winners Bellowhead will be among the folk performers in Castle Gardens, while local music talent such as Lupen Crook, The Lovedays and The Flowing will perform in the concert marquee.

The fun starts on Bluebell Hill at dawn on Saturday with the traditional Jack-in-the-Green Awakening Ceremony and the festival draws to a close with a huge procession through Rochester on bank holiday Monday.

For full details call 01634 843666 or visit www.whatson-medway.co.uk/sweepsfestival.



STACEY EARLE AND MARK STUART

Monday, May 3, Breeze Bar, Maidstone

DO not miss the chance to see an outstanding musical duo on their final UK tour together.

As both personal and professional partners, Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart have formed something of a dream team. With their chemistry evident on the stage, they have found a harmony that has delighted audiences on the Americana and alternative country circuit.

The husband and wife team from Nashville have both released highly successful solo albums and they will be going their separate ways professionally after this tour. But first fans

can enjoy their brand of folk, country and gospel that can be found on their latest album, S&M Communion Bread.

The couple met when Earle was opening an acoustic show for her hell-raising older brother, country rock superstar Steve Earle, and Stuart played some of his own songs that evening. After sitting in a waffle house until 5am, the pair made a connection which has stood the test of time.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15 in advance or £17 on the door. To book call Maverick Live on 01622 744481.

JOY OF POLITICS

Wednesday, May 5, Exchange Studio, Maidstone



SEE the funny side of the looming general election with the hilarious Joy of Politics.

Presented by Black Sheep, this irreverent show pokes fun at everything from the Magna Carta to the morning's headlines, and shines a torch into the darkest corners of Westminster. Join the award-winning double act on a romp through the corridors of power and enjoy their manifesto of mirth, the perfect escape from election overload.

Andrew Jones and Ciaran Murtagh are award-winning performers who write for Radio Four and have created such successful shows as The Joy of Wine, I, Lear and Entertainium. The Joy of Politics was premiered in London and is now hitting the road to entertain the great British public.

If you enjoyed shows like Yes Minister, The New Statesman and The Now Show, The Joy of Politics is sure to tickle your funny bone in satirical style.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit the website at www.hazlittarts-centre.co.uk.



CARL CRAIG AT OFF KEY

Sunday, May 2, Banks Bar, Maidstone



A SPECIAL guest travels all the way from America to help OFF KEY celebrate its first birthday this weekend.

The dance music events have been delighting clubbers for the last 12 months and on Sunday, a special event will be held to mark the occasion.

Guest of honour will be Carl Craig from Detroit, whose performance at that first event in London helped to shape the way organisers look at electronic music. The experience helped to form the ethos of OFF KEY, now a popular part of Maidstone's music scene.

Craig has been at the forefront of techno for 30 years, and has continued to reinvigorate electronic music over the years. With his record label Planet E, high quality productions and spectacular remixes, Craig pushes the boundaries and has remained an exciting presence on the scene.

Sam Ball, Lee Brinx, Duncan K and Nathan Martin will also be appearing. The event starts at 1pm and early bird tickets cost £10, while standard admission costs £15.

The party is a strictly ticket-only event and is sure to be in high demand, so book as soon as possible by visiting www.clubtickets.com.



CARMEN SOUZA QUARTET

Saturday, May 1, Village Hall, Hunton



BROADEN your musical horizons and experience the sound of the Carmen Souza Quartet.

This exotic group will take the audience on a wonderful journey into the niche world of Afro-European jazz, blending many traditional and contemporary aspects to create their own captivating music.

Using Creole, the dialect of Souza's ancestors, they combine traditional African and Cape Verde rhythms with the jazz influences of today to stunning effect.

Experience the rhythms of Batuque, Morna and Cola Djon with a contemporary twist, in a performance that will display the Cape Verdean quartet's impressive repertoire. The line-up features Souza on vocals, guitar and Wurlitzer, along with Theo Pascal on bass and double bass. Pedro Segundo plays percussion and Jonathan Idiagbonya provides an acoustic piano sound on keyboards.

Teamed with Souza's effortless vocals, their sound is a breath of fresh air. Discover their poignant songs when they visit Hunton as part of Applause Rural Touring's spring season. The concert starts at 8pm and tickets are £8 or £5 for under 21s. Call 01622 820683/820127 or email abcon_hot-mail.com or j.crane@virgin.net.



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Amsterdam	14°C	Madrid	25°C
Athens	21°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	20°C	Paris	15°C
Beijing	12°C	Rome	22°C
Bombay	34°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	26°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	19°C
Gibraltar	20°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	18°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	18°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:24pm 6.0m	Sunday	4:01pm 5.8m
Dover	Saturday	1:42pm 6.5m	Sunday	2:21pm 6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:39pm 7.5m	Sunday	2:17pm 7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:12pm 5.0m	Sunday	2:51pm 4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:14pm 5.7m	Sunday	3:51pm 5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:21pm 5.2m	Sunday	3:57pm 5.1m


FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST


	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	21°C	19°C	15°C	14°C
Canterbury	17°C	20°C	18°C	15°C	12°C
Chatham	17°C	19°C	16°C	14°C	11°C
Dartford	20°C	21°C	19°C	15°C	13°C

Dover	16°C	18°C	16°C	12°C	12°C
Faversham	17°C	19°C	16°C	14°C	11°C
Folkestone	16°C	18°C	16°C	12°C	12°C
Gillingham	17°C	19°C	16°C	14°C	11°C

Gravesend	20°C	21°C	19°C	15°C	13°C
Maidstone	20°C	21°C	18°C	15°C	13°C
Ramsgate	17°C	20°C	18°C	15°C	12°C
Rochester	17°C	19°C	16°C	14°C	11°C

Sevenoaks	18°C	19°C	17°C	13°C	11°C
Sittingbourne	17°C	19°C	16°C	14°C	11°C
Tonbridge	19°C	21°C	19°C	14°C	13°C
Tun Wells	19°C	21°C	19°C	14°C	13°C

 **SUNRISE** 5.33am **SUNSET** 8.14pm

 **MOONRISE** 8.53pm **MOONSET** 4.55am

A man and a woman are riding bicycles on a dirt path that runs alongside a large body of water under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The man is on the left, wearing a dark tank top, a backpack, and a red helmet. The woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored sleeveless top and a dark helmet. Both are smiling at the camera. The background shows a calm lake and distant hills.

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yourcompetition

WIN

a meal for you and your family



DOVER'S newest pub and restaurant, the Kittiwake, has teamed up with Yourlocal to offer lucky readers the chance to win a tasty pub meal for their family.

Up for grabs is a three course meal for five families* at the Kittiwake, which opens in May.

Mouth-watering classics such as steak and ale pie and beer battered fish and chips as well as an extensive range of cask beers, in a relaxed atmosphere, are on offer at the pub.

The pub is one of more than 60 planned to be built by Marston's Inns and Taverns, as part of a drive to

provide top quality pubs across Britain.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Kittiwake Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is May 10, 2010.

Question: When does the Kittiwake open?

*Family of up to four people, drinks not included.

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Make a date with laughter with Shawn Levy's new action comedy

■ BY DAMON SMITH

ROMANCE is dead and the lead characters of Shawn Levy's hysterical action comedy may be too before the end credits roll.

Date Night centres on a loving, married couple who have lost the spark in their relationship.

The spouses' efforts to reinvigorate the marriage take a turn for the surreal as screenwriter Josh Klausner propels these unassuming and hard-working suburbanites on a series of crazy misadventures.

Steve Carell and Tina Fey are perfectly cast as the parents trapped in a state of bland indifference, who just need several brushes with death to remind them what is important.

So much of our enjoyment comes from the sizzling rapport between the leads.

"Everything you're doing, I'm doing in heels," Fey's wife reminds her husband as the fugitive couple go on the run and call in favours to stay one step ahead of the bad guys.

Phil Foster (Carell) and his wife Claire (Fey) live in New Jersey with their children, who negate the need for an alarm clock by pile driving their parents' heads before 5am.

Every week, the Fosters hire a babysitter so they can go through the ritual of date night – sitting at the same table in the same restaurant ordering the same food, all under the guise of spending quality time together.

Phil and Claire attempt to spice up date night by having dinner at the most exclusive new restaurant in Manhattan.

The Fosters arrive without a reservation and when another couple fails to turn up, Phil and Claire cheekily pretend to be the elusive Triplehorns and take the vacant table.

Towards the end of the meal, heavies Armstrong and Collins take Phil and Claire into an alleyway and demand the return of a flash drive which the real Triplehorns have stolen.



MARRIED BLISS: Tina Fey (left) and Steve Carell (right) are perfectly cast as parents trapped in a bland marriage

The Fosters' innocent pleas fall on deaf thug ears and the married couple become embroiled in a life or death race around the city involving a violent gangster (Ray Liotta), a disgraced Mayor, a plucky female cop and a hunky surveillance expert (Mark Wahlberg).

Date Night has huge fun at the expense of unlikely action heroes Carell and Fey.

Their characters' ham-fisted efforts to escape an early grave are comically inept, including a getaway in quite possibly the world's slowest motor boat.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW



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A hare-brained car chase and a sequence in a pole-dancing club where the Fosters pretend to be "sex robots" to work up one punter into a froth of sexual excitement are side-splitting.

The supporting cast has a ball, notably Wahlberg who pokes gentle fun at his image as a dunderhead with a rippling six pack.

Levy maintains a jaunty pace and offsets the lunacy with moments of heartfelt emotion to ensure this is a date night to remember.

DATE NIGHT 
Certificate 15

PICTURE: ITV



FINAL DEBATE: Party leaders prepare to meet in front of the cameras one more time



YOUR TV REVIEW

VOLCANIC ASH: FLIGHT OF TERROR: Five
THE PRIME MINISTERIAL DEBATE: BBC One, 8.30pm, Thursday

■ BY THOMAS BETTS

WHEN it comes to jumping on topical bandwagons, Five are usually ahead of the pack.

The blatant opportunity presented when planes were grounded for the best part of a week, led to Volcanic Ash: Flight of Terror.

Digital images used in the docudrama to reconstruct when a British Airways 747 flight to Australia survived passing through an ash cloud 28 years ago were splashed over the Daily Star's front page last week.

Given it was on the morning after flight restrictions had been lifted with passengers eager to get away, airport bosses promptly removed all copies of the red-top rag to avoid causing alarm.

The show followed a familiar format of how everything started off perfectly normal, before people began noticing odd occurrences such as

smoke creeping into the cabin and the plane's engines lighting up.

The undeniable highlight was the message from captain Eric Moody to passengers when he said: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. We have a small problem."

"All four engines have stopped. We are doing our damndest to get it under control. I trust you are not in too much distress."

NO MATTER what the outcome of the election is there is no doubt that the three televised debates will have played their part.

The true extent will only be felt once the votes are cast and the results in and analysed, but they have been essential viewing as this country

finally caught up with what the Americans have been doing for years.

It's only right that we voters have had the chance to hear the leaders go head to head, and debate the issues.

It's just surprising that it has taken so long for it to come about as JFK and Richard Nixon first slugged it out in front of the cameras in 1960.

It was a shame that Sky News televised the last debate, meaning millions may have missed out, but in four or five years time, when more people have made the digital switchover, that will be less of a problem.

Now we have entered this territory there will surely be no way of going back, so expect this particular circus to be a part of any election campaigns we see in future.

The final debate is tomorrow night, on BBC One, and will centre on the economy. Can you afford not to watch?

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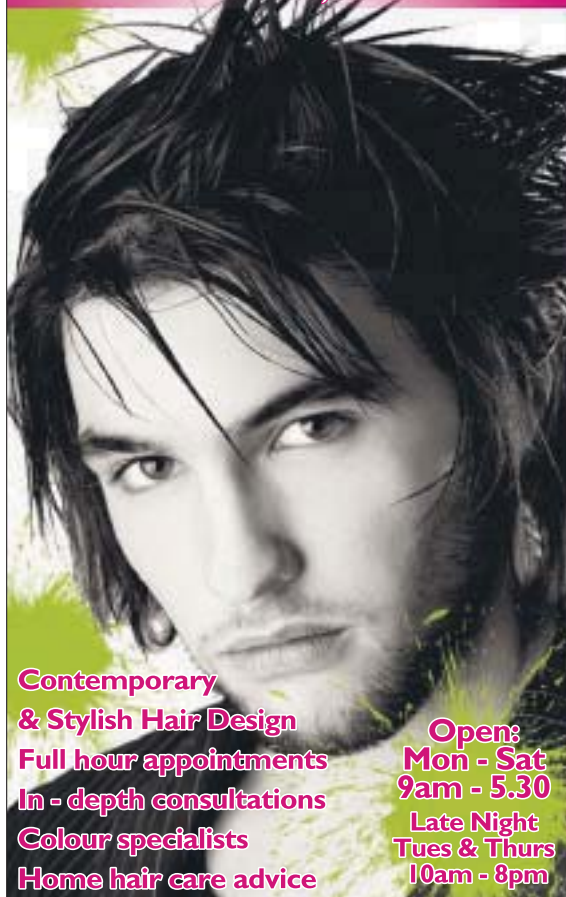
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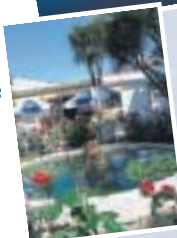
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No133

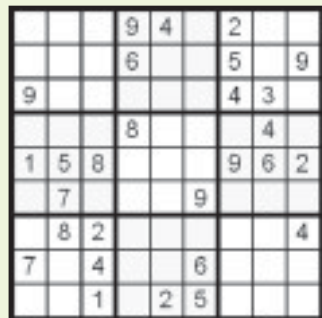
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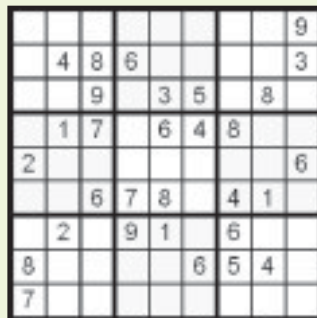
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Shaver's instrument very clearly delineated (5-5)
 6 Only egghead found on the island (4)
 9 Is able to produce verse (5)
 10 Press chap ushered inside (4)
 11 Preserve black doorpost (4)
 13 Very calm and unexcited like hothouse plant surprisingly (4,2,1,8)
 14 Old battle of extortion (8)
 16 Bar ribs to be served (6)
 18 With word of hesitation dry up (6)
 19 Present shawl in coloured paper? (8)
 22 Virtually incredible (3,4,2,2,4)
 24 Warm-up race (4)
 25 Man shortly goes out to sea (4)
 26 Secretary has dispensed with title (5)
 27 Double half-turn in skirt (4)
 28 Bitty? (10)

DOWN

- 1 Re-use celery recipe (7)
 2 Picture element with ring underneath (5)
 3 Novel attic (4,2,3,3)
 4 Removed the gap on polygon (8)
 5 Squire becoming slightly indecent (6)
 7 Natural BO developing in Asian capital! (4,5)
 8 Half of them exclude travel ban (7)
 12 It is no secret how to cook al fresco? (3,2,3,4)
 15 A nut roast cooked for highflier (9)
 17 Weight of skirt that had been shortened Margo repaired (8)
 18 Be careful, timekeeper has the very thing (5,2)
 20 Len, pray about meeting (7)
 21 Opinion these days on immorality (6)
 23 Cult member from Honduras taken home (5)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Piece of cutlery (10)
 6 Collapse (4)
 9 Showy display (5)
 10 Be feeble-minded (4)
 11 Stained (4)
 13 Place to buy cheap goods (7,8)
 14 Omission of implied word (8)
 16 Picture puzzle (6)
 18 Foolishness (6)
 19 Prisoner (8)
 22 Short description of someone (9,6)
 24 Mormon state (4)
 25 Zest (4)
 26 Sign on (5)
 27 Go on a bicycle (4)
 28 Person from Nashville perhaps (10)

DOWN

- 1 Quiver (7)
 2 Farm implement (5)
 3 Very distinctive (5-7)
 4 Scholastic (8)
 5 Bandit (6)
 7 One of the laity (9)
 8 Cornish resort (7)
 12 Half-light (4-8)
 15 Help (4,1,4)
 17 On target (anag.) (8)
 18 Varnish (7)
 20 Hierarchy (7)
 21 Rivets (anag.) (6)
 23 Trio (5)

YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A SOURCE of income could suddenly dry up. Although the prospect of finding a new job is daunting, you need to get to work. You may decide to launch a business from home. Caring for people's pets or children will give you time to work out a new career plan.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A COMPETITION at work is draining you of energy. Instead of trying to outdo a colleague, try raising your own game. Acquire some new skills or look for another opportunity. You might even decide to take a sabbatical. Improving your health will give you the necessary energy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

UNEXPECTED changes at work will force you to alter your plans. It may be necessary to downsize your lifestyle. Fortunately, you're pretty versatile. The same isn't true for loved ones. You will need to help them through. Head for a zoo, museum, or playground together.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

FINANCES are tight, and it's hard not to take your frustrations out on a partner. At times like these, the two of you need to stand together. The next time you feel the need to lash out, pick up a paintbrush or a power tool – a repair project will make you forget your troubles.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

SOME upsetting memories make it hard to get any work done. You need to resolve them now, even if it means taking some time off from your job. Get help to work through your anger and frustration. It may be necessary to confront a teacher or instructor who abused their power.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

A MOVE, announcement or decision causes some old feeling to be stirred up. You're not sure what to think about a relative trying to impose a warped belief system on you. Instead of dwelling on this resentment, create a lifestyle that makes sense for you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOUR erratic behaviour is taking a toll on your personal life. If you're in a relationship, your partner may be considering a break up. It's not fair to subject your beloved to a series of crazy whims. Think carefully before making a decision, and then stick to it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

STRIKING a balance between discipline and freedom is difficult. You're such a hard worker you sometimes forget to sit back and enjoy the ride. Instead of piling more responsibilities on your plate, take a few days off. A loved one is poised to give you a wonderful gift.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

A SMOOTH talker has aroused your suspicions. It's time to stand up for people who are being used by a manipulative charmer. At first, your warnings will fall on deaf ears. In time people will realise they have created a false idol. You need to be ready to pick up the pieces.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

A DOWN in the dumps, pessimistic attitude is harming a close relationship. Instead of predicting everything that could go wrong, offer your support. This runs contrary to your nature, but that's a good thing. By letting go just a little, you'll make room for spontaneity.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

A NEW friend or relationship is wreaking havoc on your life. Although it's exciting to never know what your partner will do or say, you have to admit this has taken you away from your friends. They don't like this new arrival and think it's not good for you. Maybe they're right.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

GETTING the training you need will be difficult. You'll have to fill your time with something productive while you wait for a place in the next available class. Arranging a party for a friend will be fun. An intimate supper will give everybody the chance to talk.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No132

ACROSS: 1 Corps 4 Grey area 8 Time of one's life 10 Zealously 11 Inner 12 Nude 13 Tax haven 17 Workload 18 Flab 22 Lucre 24 Reticence 25 Romeo and Juliet 26 Adultery 27 Theta. DOWN: 1 Citizen 2 Ram-raider 3 Spot-on 4 Grouse 5 Everyday 6 All right 7 Elfyn 9 Bran 14 Valentine 15 Bluebell 16 Marriage 17 Walk 19 Beef-tea 20 Stodgy 21 Acquit 23 Crowd.

QUICK SOLUTION No133

ACROSS: 1 Tablespoon 2 Flop 3 Extra-special 4 Pedantic 5 Outlaw 7 Layperson 8 Padstow 12 Semidarkness 15 Lend a hand 17 Tetragon 18 Lacquer 20 Echelon 21 Strive 23 Three. DOWN: 1 Tremble 2 Baler 3 Extra-special 4 Pedantic 5 Tennessee 6 Cornish 7 One of the laity 8 Cornish 9 Bandit 10 Scholastic 11 Stained 12 Half-light 13 Place to buy cheap goods 14 Omission of implied word 15 Help 16 Picture puzzle 17 On target 18 Varnish 19 Prisoner 20 Hierarchy 21 Rivets 22 Short description of someone 23 Trio 24 Mormon state 25 Zest 26 Sign on 27 Go on a bicycle 28 Person from Nashville perhaps (10)

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



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WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Oriental single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH? Blue-eyed blonde, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5ft6, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, W/LTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE Curvy brunette, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring, non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life. Ashford. Box 849706

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft6, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks lively, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. With a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983



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HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT... Shy female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking like-minded gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 33yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

MANY INTERESTS Hi, I'm based in Ashford and I'm looking for a nice guy in the area. I'm a single mum, 42 and enjoy cooking, and cosy nights. Box 468148

IT COULD BE US Professional, single, Asian woman, 42, easygoing and fun to be with, seeking a single, professional, solvent white male, 44-52 Tunbridge Wells. Box 799331

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

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NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

GET CLOSE Funny, cheerful lady, 44, 5'6", curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. Looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 467518

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. W/LTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617

COME ON OVER Fun-loving girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Rainham. Box 854480

GENIE IN A BOTTLE Slim blue-eyed blonde, 47, 5ft4, animal lover with no ties, very sociable, non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

NORMAL GAL Happy, 47, divorced and female, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 48 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866380

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

BY MY SIDE Curvy woman, 49, 5ft10, I enjoy being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, cross-words, and reading. Seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 835662

DON'T PASS ME BY Petite brunette, 51, 5ft, likes live music, pubs and socialising, gosh, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relationship. Hastings. Box 467807

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

WRITTEN IN THE STARS Late 40's woman, slim, quite active, attractive, enjoy walks, picnics, the countryside, TV dramas, seeking a Pisces or Scorpio or Cancer male. Brighton. Box 468610

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

LOVE AND LAUGHTER AND HAPPY TIMES Petite woman, 53, with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes, 5'3", enjoys socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a tall, honest man. Gillingham. Box 858610

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

QUALITY TIME 55 year old lady, 5ft6in, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, quite fit, enjoys the outdoors, lots of walking, politics, family time with the right man. Box 848381

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SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship looking to hopefully more. Box 430854

MUST LOVE ANIMALS Light-hearted lady, 57, light hair, blue eyes, 5ft3, enjoys baking, gardening and DIY, seeks romantic non-smoker for romance. Rochester. Box 468691

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S man for long term relationship. Box 448595

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

HOMELY LADY Easygoing lady, 61, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then well see. Folkestone. Box 466963

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

OUTGOING LADY Young looking lady, 62, 5ft6, blonde hair/hazel eyes. I have GSOH and like music, bowls, cinema country pubs. W/LTM man, 55-65 for friendship and more. Canterbury. Box 468269

START A NEW CHAPTER 64 year old widow, 5ft6, slim and fit, active and healthy, likes walks, theatre, gardening a social woman seeking similar non-smoking gent in Canterbury area. Box 467844

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

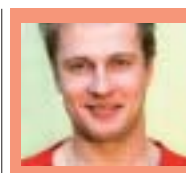
YOUNG LOOKING Sixty something, bubbly, outgoing, intelligent lady, looking for genuine friendship with like-minded male, love walks, talks, cinema, theatre or simply just a chat. Maidstone. Box 799895

A TOUCH OF CLASS Professional woman, 73, smart and fun to be with, medium build, seeks an articulate, smart, independent man of class to share quality time. Kent. Box 468560

Women seeking women

MY HEART TO YOU 37 year old gay female from Kent, dark brown eyes, dark hair, loves the outdoors and fresh air, gardening, DIY, seeks feminine lady for love. Box 467298

LOVE TO LOVE Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wine, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking like-wise female for companionship and more. Box 446953



MEN seeking women

FOR LOVE Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

FULL OF LIFE Ashford man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 6ft6, with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy pubs/clubs, eating out etc. Box 467416

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

CAN YOU PUT UP WITH ME? Hi I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503

HOP ON BOARD! Average bloke, 38, shy! Seeks young lady, looks unimportant, single mums welcome. I love gardening and ring my moped. Sittingbourne. Box 468095

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR and a reliable and caring life together, with the right woman. Box 858113

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a love to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208

COME ON OVER TO MY PLACE Fun-loving male, 40, 6ft, short dark hair, brown eyes, enjoys most things in life, seeks slim female size 10-12 who's reasonably good looking. Box 468889

DO I ATTRACT YOU? Happy go lucky single dad, 40, looking for a slim female, -size 12, to share good times and happiness with. Hutton Box 457738

LOOK IN MY EYES Romantic, fun-loving man, 40, 6ft tall, with dark hair and brown eyes, looking for a kind, considerate and romantic female. Maidstone. Box 459006

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS Loving and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290

FISHING & CAMPING! Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317

YOUR MARK Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

COME ON OVER Professional personal trainer, 42, 5ft10, green eyes, brown hair, athletic, seeking a female, 25-45, for fun times and friendship. Chatham. Box 468675

FUN & OUTGOING! Young at heart 44yr old male, stocky build, 5ft10, Kent based, father, honest and down-to-earth, likes music, nights in, walking the dog, seeks genuine lady. Box 851804

GOT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR? Malcolm, 43, dark-haired, 5ft10, spent a long time on the shelf so looking for chats, friendship and maybe more with a film and music fan. Box 451561

BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093
(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205
Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm. Mon to Fri I Email: louise@g8wave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

GSOH ESSENTIAL American male, 44, loves playing the guitar, looking for a decent female with a sense of fun about them. Brighton Box 461140

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Easygoing guy with wicked SOH, 45, 5ft11, slim-medium build, blue eyes and fair hair, loves animals, pubs and more, seeks loving lady for romance. E Sussex. Box 468369

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard working gent, 45, slim, 6ft, looking for full time relationship with a cinema, bowling and film lover! Gillingham. Box 468396

MAKE A MOVE Single dad, 45, white, likes cooking, gardening, and a passion for Reggae music, seeking a black woman for friendship and romance. Folkestone area. Box 468542

MUSIC LOVER Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Ashford. Box 467883

EASY TO LOVE Margate male, 46, tall and slim, easy-going, enjoy cinema, socialising and sport, looking for a decent lady, 40-55, for friendship and maybe a LTR. Box 468189

ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS Single guy, 47, 5ft8, been hurt in the past, works full time, looking for a Sussex-based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 460082

MEET YOUR MATCH! Slim single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include, fishing, football, day and cooking. Dover. Box 462630

NEEDING LOVE 47yr old Brighton based man, own home/business, seeks genuine local lady aged 45-50 years to share it all with. Box 463623

TAKE MY HAND Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50, Deal, Kent. Box 460441

LOVE SHOULD BE EASY Laid-back single guy, 48, from Hythe, 6ft, slightly overweight/trying to lose it, seeking a fun to be around female to takes things slow with. Box 468498

GET BACK TO ME Good looking divorced man, 49, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL Ashford man, 54, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft4, divorced-grown up daughter, enjoy walking, days in/out, quiet drink and football, looking for an educated female, 40-60. Box 465231

DANCING THROUGH LIFE Active and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771

HAND IN HAND Easygoing man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 861243

AROUND AND AROUND Active male, 59, dark hair, 57, keeps fit, cycles, seeking a cuddly, curvy, mature lady for friendship. Canterbury. Box 467423

TAKE A CHANCE Kent gent, 57, like music, socialising, cinema, fishing and holidays abroad, looking for a wonderful lady, 50-60, for friendship and romance. Cranbrook. Box 468651

ONWARDS & UPWARDS Early 50s widower, very honest and genuine, loves rock music, violin player, great cook, school worker, just hoping to meet someone. Langley. Box 468690

GET TOGETHER Divorced male, 59, 5ft8in, slim with grey hair, likes gardening, fishing, cycling, walks, cooking, going out, travel, seeks a fun and similar woman. Aylesford. Box 468615

HELLO THERE! Sociable lad, 59, from Ashford, enjoy motor racing, films and watching television, looking for a lady to share the good things in life with. Box 465607

CONSIDER THIS Professional male, 50s, likes live music, eating in and out, W/LTM slim female, to share interests together. Sittingbourne. Box 153535

A NICE WALK? Genuine chap, 60, medium build, brown hair/eyes. I enjoy socialising, pub meals, walking, cycling and I'm looking for lady with similar interests. Margate area. Box 467429

SINCERE male, 55, seeks genuine, loving female for friendship and possible relationship. Box 710294

LOVE IS THE ANSWER Retired 62yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, solvent, hobbies include music, films, reading, American comics and football. W/LTM a sweet lady for friendship/love. Herne Bay. Box 460106

SAVING ALL MY LOVE FOR YOU Lorry driver, 63, 5ft9, slim, separated, likes going to the pub, playing golf and music, looking for a lovely lady to share life with. Maidstone. Box 462530

THE SIMPLE THINGS Slim 60s male, 6ft, non smoker, likes country pubs, log fires, W/LTM tall, slim non-smoking female 58-68. Battle. Box 455050

Men seeking men

yourmusic

Hair's to another great LOTF event



BEATBOX SENSATION: Beardyman has joined the list of great acts performing this year

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BREATHTAKING beatbox artist Beardyman has been added to the Lounge on the Farm line-up.

The London-born vocalist's appearance at the Canterbury three-dayer was confirmed alongside nearly 50 other artists and bands.

Out-of-town names include These New Puritans, the Phenomenal Handclap Band, Danny & The Champions of The World and Lissy Trullie.

Lounge bosses said Erland & The Carnival – featuring The Verve guitarist Simon Tong and Paul McCartney collaborator David Knock among their ranks – and Quantic and his Comba Barbaro were not to be missed.

They said: "Erland & The Carnival's distinctive and unmissable swirling riffs derive from Orcadian singer Erland Cooper's fun-fair folk stylings.

"Also making the journey to Kent's green and pleasant land will be Quantic and his Combo Bárbaro a brand new band who fuse rare and infectious rhythms from the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa with Quantic's own renowned deep soul and refried funk."

The LOTF organisers have also unveiled a host of Kentish acts, who are booked to perform at the July weekend.

These include Tom Williams & The Boat, Lucy Kitt, CWB, Electric Rive and Wolf People.

Among the Lounge headliners are Motown greats Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, ska legends Toots & The Maytals, The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, DJ Yoda and Courtney Pine.

Lounge promoters are promising their fifth year will be the biggest and best yet.

The spokesman added: "With increased capacity, this year's Lounge On The Farm looks set to be the finest yet.

"We have a medley of musical pleasures – from local heroes and the next big things to the truly legendary – spread across seven stages, plus incredible comedy,

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @

yourkenttv.co.uk



Belleville perform For You (Forever Young) in Canterbury.



Jus' Ben covers Keane's modern classic Everybody's Changing.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Gristlefridge – 6/5 The Beercart Arms Canterbury
- 2 The Suspects – 8/5 King Edward VII Margate
- 3 Flipswitch – 29/5 Maidens Head Canterbury
- 4 Save Target As – 30/5 The Downtown Dinner Ashford
- 5 Craig Sheridan – 5/6 The Port Arms Deal

theatre, burlesque and vaudeville treats, the kids' Little Lounge area and some of the most refined, locally sourced, rustic refreshments to be found at any festival anywhere."

LOTF takes place at Merton Farm, Canterbury, from Friday, July 9, to Sunday, July 11.

A weekend adult ticket costs £95. Day tickets will be released next month.

For more information visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.



SCENIC: Enjoy a lesson in nature with walks and guided tours around the beautiful National Parks and coastline that New Zealand has to offer

yourgetaways

Unforgettable trip to Land of the Long White Cloud

■ BY VICTORIA MITCHELL

HAVING a towering, tattooed man press his nose against mine has to be one of the more unusual – and enjoyable – greetings I have experienced.

In New Zealand, this exchange meant I was no longer considered a visitor but rather as one of the people of the land.

The 'hongi', a traditional Maori welcome, made an interesting start to an unforgettable trip to the country also known as Land of the Long White Cloud, after an exhausting journey through several time zones, as Air New Zealand flights from Britain to Auckland on the North Island go via either Hong Kong or Los Angeles.

We eased the jet-lag with a 45-minute drive to the west of the city, to the dramatic coast of Karekare where thunderous waves pound the iron-black sand.

After a bracing walk along the dunes we headed to nearby Piha and the Waitakere ranges, a stunning wilderness area, for a lesson in nature, and even sampled some plants which provided nourishment for Maori in the past.

Our visit was rounded off with a 'hangi' – a feast of meats and vegetables cooked using heated rocks buried in a pit oven, and it was a perfect introduction to New Zealand.

Auckland itself is superb for fine dining: one of the best restaurants is the award-winning Dine by world-famous chef Peter Gordon at Sky City Grand Hotel. Oysters, scallops and of course, lamb, adorn an eclectic menu.

Auckland is also known as the City of Sails, so our next adventure was

FACT FILE: NEW ZEALAND

Victoria Mitchell flew as a guest of Tourism New Zealand with Air New Zealand which offers return flights ex-Heathrow from £884, incl taxes, until June 15, 2010. Details on www.airnewzealand.co.uk and www.newzealand.com.

Air New Zealand reservations: 0800 028 4149 and www.airnewzealand.co.uk.

Operators to New Zealand include Austravel, which offers a nine-night Auckland, Rotorua and Napier self-drive tour from £1,599, which includes three nights' accom in Auckland (at SkyCity Grand), three nights in Rotorua and Napier, seven days' car hire and return flights with Air NZ. Price also includes day tour of Waiheke Island, a Maori village hangi and concert and a food and wine tour of Hawke's Bay.

For departures ex-Manchester and



Glasgow, add another £100 for return connecting flights to Heathrow.

Austravel reservations: 0800 988 4834 and www.austravel.com.

sailing from the massive marina to Waiheke Island on a 50ft yacht.

Pride of Auckland operates a fleet of sailing yachts where visitors – under the watchful eye of an expert crew – experience the hands-on thrill of sailing in one of the world's most famous bays.

Huge gusts of wind might have tipped our boat over had it not been for the intervention of the skipper, so we arrived at the island's main jetty looking slightly bedraggled.

I was greeted warmly, however, by the delightful and informative guide Jenny, a retired midwife who personally delivered many of the 8,000 permanent residents on Waiheke.

The island, which can also be reached from Auckland by a 45-minute, and rather less eventful, ferry ride, is home to wineries, craft shops, beautiful gardens and beach-

es, and olive groves where tourists can sample some of the finest oil in the world.

Our next stop was the city of Nelson, on the northern shores of South Island, and at just under a two-hour flight from Auckland or from Hawke's Bay, it is said to be at the very centre of New Zealand.

I was there to experience a bit of outdoors adventure in the nearby Abel Tasman National Park.

Noel Kennedy, an expert guide from New Zealand Nature Tours plans a personal and authentic itinerary for the most discerning visitors.

To make the most of a visit to New Zealand, you really need to start planning in advance. Air New Zealand's route network includes 26 domestic destinations – covering North and South Islands – and people use the service like they would a bus.

MOTORS NEWS



Meriva opens wide for the second generation

VAUXHALL has opened the order book for its second-generation Meriva baby MPV.

Priced from £15,495 and in dealerships for June 18, it's wider, longer and more stylish, with a stepped rear window line plus a major talking point – rearward opening rear doors.

These 'FlexDoors' open to nearly 90 degrees, vastly improving entry, but it's parents who will see most benefit as they pilot the kids in and out and strap them into their seats, boosters and so on.



Fair weather friends are out in force again

MOTOR market watchers like to play down seasonal price trends, but there's nothing like spring sunshine to boost prices for convertibles.

British Car Auctions (BCA), which has a site at Paddock Wood, has just staged a sale of 400 convertibles and sold the lot, many for prices higher than expected and ranging from less than £4,000 to over £50,000. A spokesman said the economy and election should have made people nervous, but the sale suggested optimism among trade and private buyers alike.



Seat aiming to clean up on Scrapage variation

SEAT has followed up on the Government's official £2,000 Scrapage trade-in grant with a £2,000 saving on its cleanest and greenest Ecomotive models.

On top of that, says VW's Spanish arm, buyers also get to save even more thanks to the cheaper everyday running costs of cars like the Leon Ecomotive SE (pictured) with start-stop technology and energy recovery system.

With a lower sale price of £16,045 under the new scheme, buyers could also save more than £4,300 over a typical three-year/45,000-mile period.



DECEPTIVELY BIG: The hi-cube van design of Peugeot's Bipper Tepee means lots of legroom and the potential to carry loads of luggage as well as five people in decent comfort

Postman Pat and the Popemobile by Peugeot

ROAD TEST PEUGEOT BIPPER TEPEE

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

This is helped by sliding rear side doors and a huge top-hinged tailgate that doubles as a rain shelter when loading and unloading or simply 'grandstanding' or picnicking at an event.

There is plenty of clever stowage too, but the van origins and budget pricing are betrayed by pop-out rather than wind-down rear windows, plus some painted metalwork and rubber floor covering, presumably so that you could hose out the footwells.

My car was a top-spec Outdoor HDi70 diesel (£11,795), which looks chunkier thanks to bigger side protection mouldings, lower front panel trim and standard-fit roof bars.

It also gains air con, front fog lights and – for the more rural-based owner – higher suspension and under engine protection.

It costs an extra £1,000 to have the 70bhp 1.4-litre turbodiesel instead of the 75bhp 1.4-litre petrol alternative and it needs nearly 18 seconds and a following wind to hit 60, but it will average around 60mpg and incur just £35/year road tax due to its low emissions.

The petrol is still no flier (0-62mph in 16.6 seconds), but saves a £1,000 upfront and every time you fill up, while still averaging more than 40mpg, but you pay £145/year road tax.



SEE MOTORSTV FOR MORE ROAD TESTS BY STEVE LOADER @ yourkenttv.co.uk



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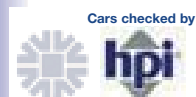
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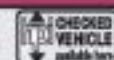


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**2007 07 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE, 5dr, 1
Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 25k
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**2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVT-i T3
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1.6 SE AUTO, 5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, 29k
£6,495**



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5 door, 2 owners, A/C, 25k
£3,495**



**2007 07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
1.6 LIFE, 5DR, 1 OWNER, A/C, 28K
£7,495**



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INITIA, 5DR, 1 OWNER, S/HISTORY, 19K
£5,995**



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3dr, 1 owner, A/C, Alloys, 20k
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2.2 CRD Classic, S/History, A/C, 61k
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AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	12	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	7,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	13D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	9,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	13D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	9,995
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	12	5	Steel silver	4,250	7,995
2009	59	Agila Club CDTi	13D	5	Atlanta blue	2,950	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	13D	5	Lemon grass	1,350	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	13D	5	Moroccan blue	1,215	9,495
2010	59	Agila Design	12	5	Lemon grass	2,790	8,995

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	55	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	16	3	Ultra blue	30,260	6,995
2006	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	16	3	Black sapphire	33,050	7,695
2006	56	Astra Design Twin top	18	2	Black sapphire	40,200	9,695
2007	07	Astra Design Auto Estate	18	5	Silver lightening	22,190	7,995
2007	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X pack	16 TBO	3	Flame red	29,810	10,495
2007	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25,000	13,995
2007	57	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	19D	5	Ultra blue	17,325	9,995
2008	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	19D	5	Star silver	22,200	9,995
2008	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	16	3	Silver lightening	24,300	9,995
2008	58	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	19D	3	Star silver	10,100	12,995
2008	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	18	3	Black sapphire	5,960	11,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	16	3	Ultra blue	5,800	11,995
2009	59	Astra Life A/c	16	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	9,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	16	3	Star silver	Del mileage	12,995
2009	59	Astra Sports Twin top	18	2	Air blue	3,320	17,495
2009	59	Astra Sxi CDTi	19D	5	Power red	8,000	13,995

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06*	Corsa Sxi +	12	3	Flame red	57,600	4,995
2008	08	Corsa Breeze E/T	12	3	Flame red	10,125	7,995
2009	09	Corsa Active	10	5	Star silver	6,270	8,995
2010	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	12	3	Flame red	Delivery	10,995
2010	59	Corsa Active	10	3	Flame red	Delivery	9,995
2010	59	Corsa Active	12	5	Ultra blue	Delivery	10,995

INSIGNIA & SIGNUM

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	18	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
2009	09	Insignia S Tourer Exc CDTi	19D	5	Technical grey	5,300	16,995

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Meriva Life A/C	14	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2007	07*	Tigra Exclusive Red	14	2	Metro blue	32,500	8,995

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	05*	Zafira Design CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Star silver	53,000	6,995
2006	06	Zafira Active	1.8	5	Metro blue	38,050	7,995
2008	58	Zafira Exclusive	1.6	5	Star silver	13,700	9,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Meriva Life A/C	14	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2002	02*	Corsa Club E/T	12	5	Blue	37,000	3,195
2006	56	Corsa Design CDTi	13D	5	Flame red	37,000	7,995
2007	07	Corsa Design	12	3	Metro blue	19,500	7,495
2008	07	Corsa Club	12	5	Flame red	26,000	7,295
2008	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	13	3	Black sapphire	12,000	8,695
2006	06	Astra Active	1.6	5	Ultra blue	37,000	6,995
2007	07	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Panacotta	30,000	6,995
2008	08	Astra Sri	1.8	5	Black sapphire	19,500	9,495
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	11,000	9,495
2009	09	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	19D	5	Star silver	10,000	14,995
2009	09	Agila Design	12	5	White	7,000	7,995
2009	59	Astra Active	1.6	5	Sovereign silver	4,000	10,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi eco flex	1.7D	5	Sovereign silver	4,000	12,995
2010	59	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	8,000	17,995
2009	59	Insignia Elite CDTi Nav	2.0	5	Sovereign silver	8,000	22,995
2009	59	Insignia Sri Nav	2.0	4	Black sapphire	8,000	17,995
2009	59	Insignia CDTi ECO Exclusive	2.0	5	Silver lake	5,000	17,495
2009	59	Tigra Air	1.4	2	Antigua	5,000	12,995
2007	07	Zafira Energy	1.6	5	Silver lightening	19,000	8,495
2009	59	Zafira Active CDTi+	19D	5	Ultra blue	6,000	14,995
2009	59	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9	5	Panacotta	5,000	17,495
2009	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	19,000	9,995

USED VANS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Combo PAS	13CDTi	5	White	36,150	£4,995+VAT
2009	59	Combo CDTi PAS	13D	5	White	13,960	£7,295+VAT

PRE-REG VANS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	59	Vivaro SWB(115)	2.0D	5	White	Delivery	£11,995+VAT
2009	59	Avstravan	1.7D	Club	White	Delivery	£9,495+VAT

OTHERS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2002	02*	Skoda Fabia Auto	1.4	5	Black	50,750	3,995

*Non Network Q

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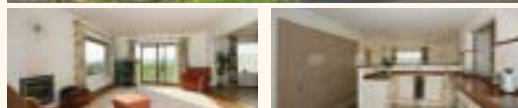
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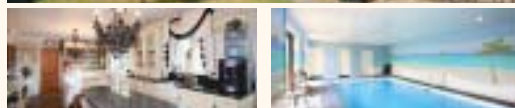


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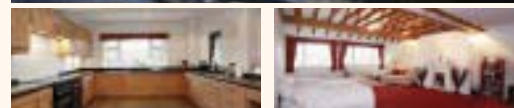
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• GAMES ROOM
• 3 GARAGES (2 DOUBLES)

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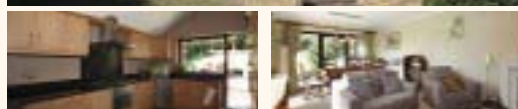


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• 2 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEXE
• 3 RECEPTIONS ROOMS
• EN-SUITE TO MASTER

• SUN TERRACE
• UTILITY ROOM
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• SHOWER ROOM

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Halling
• DETACHED HOUSE
• 4 BEDROOMS
• RIVER MEDWAY VIEWS
• INDIVIDUAL DESIGN

• 4 RECEPTION ROOMS
• DOUBLE GARAGE
• VILLAGE LOCATION
• KITCHEN OVERLOOKING GARDEN

£499,995

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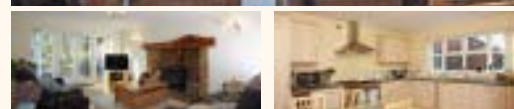


Upchurch
• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED RESIDENCE
• 1.5 ACRE PLOT
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• 2 BEDROOM ANNEXE

• 4 ENSUITES
• BALCONIES
• SWIMMING POOL
• SNOOKER ROOM & GYMNASIUM

£1,100,000

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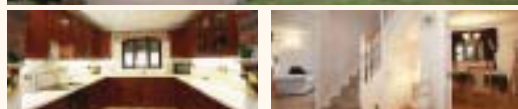


Wigmore
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• MODERN KITCHEN/ BREAKFAST ROOM
• EN SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM

• EXCELLENT LOCATION
• 140FT REAR GARDEN
• NHBC GAURANTEED
• GARAGE / ANNEX

OIEO £440,000

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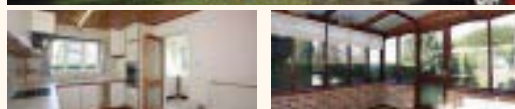


Walderslade
• EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOUSE
• 4 BEDROOMS
• VILLAGE LOCATION
• EN-SUITE

• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• STUDY
• DOUBLE GARAGE

£525,000

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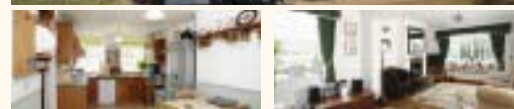


East Farleigh
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• POTENTIAL FOR ANNEXE
• DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING

• CONSERVATORY
• FRONT, SIDE & REAR GARDENS
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION
• VILLAGE LOCATION

£510,000

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Isle of Harty
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
• APPROX 2.5 ACRES
• PADDOCKS
• 2 RECEPTIONS

• RIVER VIEWS
• STABLE BLOCK
• STORE BARN
• CELLAR

OIEO £550,000

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- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
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- DRIVEWAY FOR 4 CARS

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- CLOAKROOM

£239,999



- LANDSCAPED GARDEN
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- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

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Luton

- 1 BEDROOM RETIREMENT FLAT
- LEASEHOLD
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN

£90,000

REF: Walserslade_61726S



Rainham

- 3 BEDROOM END TERRACE
- GATED DEVELOPMENT
- APPROX 3 YRS OLD
- SEMI RURAL LOCATION

Guide Price £235,000 - £245,000



- CLOAKROOM
- SEMI RURAL LOCATION
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- 3 BEDROOM END TERRACE

REF: Rainham_60174S



Wayfield

- SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
- 3/4 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- 1/2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- NO CHAIN

£175,000



- UPSTAIRS WET ROOM
- 75FT APPROX REAR GARDEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- OUTSIDE W.C

REF: Walserslade_62284S



Chatham Prices From £115,000

- NEW STUDIO 1/2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS
- HI SPEC FITTED KITCHENS
- VILLEROY & BOCH SANITARY WARE
- WATERFRONT LOCATION

REF: Walserslade_65031S



Chatham

- TERRACED HOUSE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- OVER 3 FLOORS
- LOUNGE / DINING AREA

£135,000



- CLOAKROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walserslade_61340S



Rainham

- SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- ENTRANCE HALL
- 2 RECEPTION AREAS

Guide Price £180,000- £200,000



- GARAGE
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham_60687S



Rochester

- MID TERRACE HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOMS
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

OIEO £130,000

REF: Walserslade_60443S



Brompton

- 1ST FLOOR APARTMENT
- 2 BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- REFITTED KITCHEN

£124,995



- BATHROOM
- ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- VICTORIAN LISTED BUILDING

REF: Rainham_64405S



Walserslade

- EXTENDED TERRACED HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- SEPARATE DINING ROOM

Guide Price £140,000- £149,995



- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN/BATHROOM
- GARAGE AND PARKING TO REAR
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER

REF: Walserslade_64299S



Gillingham

- 2 BEDROOM HOUSE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM

£120,000

REF: Rainham_62303S



Lordswood

- 2 BEDROOM EXTENDED TERRACED
- CONSERVATORY
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER

£155,000



- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- MODERN BATHROOM
- GARAGE
- WELL PRESENTED

REF: Walserslade_64408S



Gillingham

- SEMI-DETACHED
- 2 / 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

Guide Price £129,995 - £139,995



- GARDEN
- SET BACK FROM ROAD
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham_63292S



Chatham

- 1 BEDROOM STARTER HOME
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- LEAN TO

£97,000

REF: Walserslade_63125S



Rainham

- 1 BEDROOM STARTER HOME
- MID TERRACE
- POPULAR TEN ACRE WAY DEVELOPMENT
- REFITTED KITCHEN

£129,995



- REFITTED SHOWER ROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- 2 ALLOCATED SPACES
- REAR ACCESS

REF: Rainham_64491S



Chatham

- STUDIO FLAT
- KITCHEN
- MODERN BATHROOM
- POPULAR LOCATION

£64,000



- PARKING
- LEASEHOLD
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

REF: Walserslade_62948S



Gillingham

- END TERRACE
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE / DINER
- RIVERSIDE LOCATION

OIEO £150,000

REF: Rainham_60839S



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Chatham
 • 3 BEDROOM TERRACED
 • 1930'S STYLE
 • LOFT ROOM
 • KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM


OIEO £150,000

- LOUNGE
- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- CELLAR
- DINING AREA

REF: Walderslade_60803S



Newington
 • GEORGIAN COTTAGE
 • 2 BEDROOMS
 • LOUNGE WITH EXPOSED CHIMNEY BREAST
 • COUNTRY STYLE KITCHEN

Guide Price £115,000 - £125,000

- CELLAR AND LEAN TO
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham_60003S



Chatham
 • APARTMENT
 • 1 BEDROOM
 • 1 RECEPTION ROOM
 • MODERN FITTED KITCHEN

£85,000

REF: Walderslade_61049S



Wigmore
 • CHALET BUNGALOW
 • 4 BEDROOMS
 • 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
 • CONSERVATORY


Guide Price 325,000 - £335,000

- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- CORNER POSITION
- POPULAR LOCATION

REF: Rainham_60153S



Chatham
 • 3 BEDROOM SEMI
 • KITCHEN/DINER
 • GARAGE
 • SHOWER ROOM

£189,995

- LOUNGE
- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- PARKING TO THE FRONT
- MODERN KITCHEN

REF: Walderslade_61202S



Walderslade
 • STARTER HOME
 • 1 BEDROOM
 • LOUNGE
 • MODERN KITCHEN

£124,995

REF: Walderslade_65121S



Cliffe
 • 1ST FLOOR FLAT
 • 2 BEDROOMS
 • 1 RECEPTION ROOM
 • NO FORWARD CHAIN


OIEO £115,000

- DOUBLE GLAZING
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- IDEAL INVESTMENT
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade_64221S



Rainham
 • 4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
 • 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
 • 19FT REFITTED KITCHEN
 • GARAGE AND DRIVE

Guide Price £250,000 £275,000

- 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE
- GOOD SIZE GARDEN
- GARAGE AND DRIVE

REF: Rainham_60354S



Parkwood
 • 3 BEDROOM HOUSE
 • 2 RECEPTION AREAS
 • CLOAKROOM
 • GARAGE EN-BLOC

£159,995

REF: Rainham_65059S



Cooling
 • DETACHED HOUSE
 • 4 BEDROOMS
 • LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
 • CONSERVATORY OVERLOOKING GARDEN


£485,000

- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- GOOD SIZE REAR GARDEN
- GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- RURAL LOCATION

REF: Walderslade_59912S



Gillingham
 • CHALET BUNGALOW
 • 3 BEDROOMS
 • KITCHEN / BREAKFAST
 • LOUNGE / DINER

Guide Price £220,000 £240,000

- ENSUITE & DRESSING AREA
- WELL ESTABLISHED GARDEN
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham_60151S



Rochester
 • 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM FAMILY HOUSE
 • 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
 • MATURE 150 FT REAR GARDEN
 • DRIVEWAY FOR NUMEROUS CARS

Guide Price £310,000- £330,000

REF: Walderslade_63683S



Rainham
 • 4 BEDROOM EXTENDED END TERRACE
 • LOUNGE
 • FURTHER RECEPTION ROOM
 • KITCHEN DINER


OIEO £210,000

- FAMILY BATHROOM
- EN SUITE
- WALKING DISTANCE TO STATION
- GARAGE

REF: Rainham_60293S



Rochester
 • 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
 • MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
 • 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
 • CONSERVATORY

£248,000

- GARAGE
- DRIVEWAY
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- MUST BE SEEN

REF: Walderslade_63376S



Gillingham
 • VICTORIAN HOUSE
 • 3 SEPARATE BEDROOMS
 • 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
 • SET OVER THREE FLOORS

£159,995

REF: Rainham_61868S



Rainham
 • 3/4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
 • 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
 • DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
 • 16FT KITCHEN


Guide Price £200,000 - £220,000

- SEPARATE DINING ROOM
- GARAGE & DRIVE
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES

REF: Rainham_65027S



Rainham
 • END OF TERRACE
 • 3 BEDROOMS
 • LOUNGE / DINER
 • DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM

Guide Price £175,000 - £185,000

- CONSERVATORY
- ENCLOSED GARDEN
- GARAGE
- NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham_60135S



Lordwood
 • 2 BEDROOM EXTENDED TERRACED
 • CONSERVATORY
 • LOUNGE
 • KITCHEN/DINER

£155,000

REF: Walderslade_64408S

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Rochester

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- Garden

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- Study & further reception room

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Wainscott

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- Lounge, kitchen/diner, Conservatory
- Bathroom, Garden, off road parking

Offers in excess of £265,000

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Hoo

- Three bedroom semi detached home
- Lounge, fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom & conservatory

Offers Over £200,000

CALL OUR STROOD OFFICE 01634 715401



Rainham

- Two bedroom end of terrace
- Fitted kitchen & bathroom
- Garden with summer house

Offers in excess of £140,000

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Chatham

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Large kitchen/diner

£130,000

CALL OUR CHATHAM OFFICE 01634 843277



Rochester

- One bedroom semi detached house
- Central heating, Double glazing,
- Off street parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

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PUBLIC NOTICE

5 St. Johns Road, Gillingham,
Kent, ME7 5NB

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £100,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. No forward chain!

CALL OUR GILLINGHAM OFFICE 01634 851008



Chatham

- Victorian terrace house.
- Three bedrooms, two reception rooms,
- Kitchen & bathroom, Off road parking

Fixed Price £90,000

CALL OUR CHATHAM OFFICE 01634 843277



PUBLIC NOTICE

28 Harold Avenue, Gillingham,
Kent, ME7 2JH

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £127,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

CALL OUR GILLINGHAM OFFICE 01634 851008



PUBLIC NOTICE

52 Oak Road Sittingbourne,
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Rochester



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Rochester



£115,000

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Wainscott



Offers in the region of £130,000

Three bedroom terrace home. Double glazing, fitted kitchen and two reception rooms. Off road parking.

Hoo



Asking Price £130,000

Two bed terraced home. Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom. C/heating & d/glazing.

Rochester



Guide Price £145,000

Three bedroom home benefitting from double glazing, central heating, 2 reception rooms & kitted kitchen.

Hoo



Asking Price £169,995

Two bedroom semi-detached home. Double glazing, fitted kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom & off road parking.

Allhallows



£169,995

Three bedroom extended semi detached family home. Fitted kitchen, re fitted shower room, cloak room.

Rochester



£175,000

End of terrace house. Lounge, re fitted kitchen/diner, conservatory, 3 beds & bathroom. C/heating, d/glazing.

Rochester



Offers in excess of £220,000

Three bed detached bungalow, would benefit from some modernisation. Located in the desirable village of Cliffe Woods.

High Halstow



£269,995

This property benefits from c/heating, d/glazing, two separate reception rooms. Off road parking & garage.

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www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk



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Sutton Valence

£290,000

A well presented three bedroom detached family home in popular location.

Spacious kitchen/diner, living room, conservatory, cloakroom. Master bedroom and two further bedrooms and family bathrooms. Good size rear garden, garage and ample parking on drive.

Web Ref: 759



Boughton Monchelsea

£475,000 to £525,000

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Outbuilding with potential to convert to annexe accommodation (subject to PP).

Web Ref: 735



Marden

£1,500 pcm

Detached four bedroom family home in a small close with good access to shops and station.

Two reception rooms, spacious kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom. Rear garden, garage and ORP. Available now.

Web Ref: 697



Kilndown

£950 pcm

A newly constructed three bedroom family home with spacious open plan sitting/dining room with contemporary fitted kitchen.

Master bedroom en suite, two further bedrooms and family bathroom. Garden and ORP. Available Now.

Web Ref: 669



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- 4 Bedrooms and Double Garage



MAIDSTONE

£380,000

- 2 Reception Rooms
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- 5 Bedrooms (Two in attic)



MAIDSTONE

£200,000

- Some modernisation required
- Three Bedrooms
- Approximately 185ft Garden



MAIDSTONE

£225,000

- Kitchen & Lounge/ Dining room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Garage and Driveway



MAIDSTONE

£149,000

- Some Modernisation Required
- 3 Bedroom Town House
- Garage & Gardens



COXHEATH

£169,995

- Kitchen & Lounge/ Dining room,
- 2 bedrooms
- Parking for 2/3 Vehicles



MAIDSTONE

£175,000

- Extended End Terrace
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- 3 Bedrooms



MAIDSTONE

£139,000

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nsimmons@argltd.co.uk Full UK driving licence essential.

All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence.
We are an equal opportunities employer.



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Email: office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk

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Psychological Wellbeing Project Co-ordinator

£22,958 - £29,236 • 37 hours per week plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,170 per annum Based Medway

KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers and mcch society ltd are looking to recruit a Co-ordinator for an exciting new Psychological Wellbeing Project. 'Way to Wellbeing' will be an educational programme to reach out across Kent and Medway enabling both the general population and those who provide services to be better equipped to deal with emotional distress.

Activities will include a programme of large scale psycho-educational workshops and delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training. You will demonstrate a knowledge, understanding and experience of working with those experiencing emotional distress or mental health difficulties as well as providing groupwork, education or training. A sound knowledge of other local services including employment and IAPT services would also be desirable.

Whilst being employed by KCA (UK) you will be required to work closely with our partners for this project and would receive an induction into both organisations.

For an informal discussion regarding this role please contact Kerry Smith, Operations Manager on 07779 658886.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 658.

Closing date: 7 May 2010.

Interview date: 19 May 2010 at Medway PTP.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

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Psychological Therapist

£21,519 - £27,849 pro rata, pa plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,170 pro rata, pa

Full or part time (min 23 hpw) • Evenings may be required Based Ashford

KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration.

We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service.

You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level in CBT. Psychodynamic Counselling or Couples Therapy. You should be eligible for either BABCP/BACP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Susan Wyles on 01233 639383 or 07725 433267.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 652.

Closing date: 7 May 2010. Interview date: 19 May 2010 in Ashford.

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Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

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We are currently looking for 2...

DEPARTMENT CO-ORDINATORS COMMENCING SEPT 2010 TO LEAD NURSERY/KS1 AND KS4/5 (FURTHER EDUCATION), IN THIS PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

MPS + TLR 2 (£6,057) + 2 SEN POINTS

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010

Interviews will be held on 24th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP

(Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR

Serco Local Government, Canterbury

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced Playground Inspector to carry out programmed works as part of the maintenance/inspection regime.

- ROSPA qualification would be advantageous
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- CRB check is required
- 39 Hours per week (over 7 day period)
- 20 Days annual leave rising to 25 days after 5 years continuous service.

Telephone 01227 819419 for an application form.

Closing date for all completed applications will be:
Tuesday 4th May 2010



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Community Drug Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 pa • 37 hours per week • Based East & West Kent & Medway

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. There is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Ref: 656.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview dates: 13 & 14 May 2010 in Maidstone.

Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service

£19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa • 15 hours per week • Based Canterbury

As an experienced and capable Administrator you will be able to work independently and provide efficient and high quality administrative support to KCA's Generic SPI service.

Working in a demanding environment, you should have excellent typing skills and be confident in your ability to use Microsoft Office to a high standard. As the author of the Generic SPI service's quarterly newsletter, you will be required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping up-to-date with the key issues within the field whilst also using your own creativity and innovative approach to communicate the success of the service to external organisations.

The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential. You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise your own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. Ref: 650.

For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead - Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview date: TBC.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

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Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a...

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2010

MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2478
(with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010

Interviews will be held on 20th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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Due to rapid growth we require
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For an application pack contact
Jane or Rita on 01634 673333.

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear Enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references. Closing date for applications Friday 7th May 2010.

PART-TIME CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Medway & Swale Advocacy Partnerships (MSAP) provides advocacy services to people suffering mental health issues and is located in Frindsbury.

We are looking for an experienced charity fundraiser to apply for funding for various projects that fall outside of our core funding. The successful applicant will be a self-starter with a proven track record of applying for grants. This will be a one day a week position with the possibility of further day(s) according to success rate.

Own transport would be desirable due location; however, not essential for the post.

Criminal Records bureau checks apply.

For a job information pack, telephone
01634 713739

or e-mail medwayswale@btconnect.com
Closing date for applications: 10th May 2010.
Interviews: 25th May 2010.

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this section

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We are an equal opportunities employer.

Closing Date: 30 April 2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



MIXED EMOTIONS: Holcombe ladies (in red) lost their Kent Cup final, but the men triumphed

Holcs' roller-coaster ride of delight and despair

HOLCOMBE tasted both glory and defeat as their top sides won one Kent Cup final and lost the other in two thrilling encounters last weekend.

The club's ladies were 2-0 up but ended up losing 3-2 to rivals Maidstone, but Holcs finished Sunday with some silverware as the men beat Sevenoaks 4-3.

Both finals featured superb comebacks, but the men's final was the pick of the two games at Holcombe Park. Sevenoaks finished behind Holcs in Conference East this season, but showed their pedigree in one-off games by reaching the National Cup semi-finals in March.

HOCKEY

The Oaks controlled the game and steadily built a lead. They looked virtually home and dry when they made it 3-0 with 25 minutes remaining, but Holcombe conjured an extraordinary fight-back.

Yasser Khan got them on the board, before Stephane Vehrle-Smith, Ryan Ravenscroft and Chris Bowen scored late on to seal the turn around and see the club successfully defend their title.

The ladies competition was the fourth suc-

cessive year Holcombe and Maidstone had met in the Kent Cup final. Only goal difference separated the two teams' records in the East Women's Premier Division and it was another close game.

The hosts raced into a 2-0 lead after 19 minutes, but they were pegged back before the break.

Holcombe began the second-half brightly but time and again they were denied by Maidstone goalkeeper Laura Leatherbarrow, who was in inspired form. It proved costly, as the visitors grabbed victory with ten minutes remaining through Maria Miles.

RUGBY

Picture: MEDWAY DRAGONS



VICTORY: Medway Dragons' under-11s won their cup at the Brentwood festival

Young dragons on fire at festival day

MEDWAY Dragons under-11s won the title at the first major minis rugby league festival of the season on Saturday.

The side were undefeated in their six matches at Brentwood, but they had to work hard for their silverware.

The first game against hosts Brentwood Elvers was drawn 8-8, but the Dragons found their stride with a 4-0 victory against West Croydon Broncos, thanks to a try from Josh Bruin.

Another draw, this time with Brixton Bulls, followed, before victory in the final pool game against Elmbridge Eagles saw the Dragons through into the knock-out stages.

The draw pitted them against the Eagles again, with the same outcome. Tries from Ed Holland, Bruin and wing William Vodo handed the Dragons a 12-0 win and passage to the final.

Committed

They faced the Elvers in the final, which reached half-time with the sides still locked together.

A committed second-half performance kept the Dragons in the game and they made the crucial breakthrough when Harry Meadows passed wide for Reuben Murdoch-North to break two tackles and score the festival-winning try.

The club's under-sevens and under-nines were also involved in Brentwood. The latter enjoyed a good run, scoring a dramatic golden try against the Broncos to reach the semi-final. It proved to be their highlight as the Elvers ended the Dragons' hopes of reaching the final.

Elsewhere the Dragons' under-13s continued their good start to the league season with a 34-0 win against Brixton Bulls.

Callum Simmons scored a try in each half, while Tom Josling, Connor Nayler, James Colclough, Charlie Faux and George Carlin also touched down to set up this weekend's top-of-the-table clash with Brentwood.

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FLAT FINISH: Brad Potter (left in blue) and Ray Powell (right in blue) fight for possession as Chatham Town ended a disappointing season by losing at Ashford Town on Saturday

Chats boss wants to stay on despite club's struggles

ALEX O'Brien is keen to stay on as manager at Chatham Town despite a disappointing campaign that ended with defeat at Ashford on Saturday.

The Chats began the campaign well and at the halfway stage looked capable of challenging for the Ryman South play-offs. But since the turn of the year the team have struggled, slipping down to 17th in the table with a run of just one win from their last ten games.

With the squad rarely able to train in the second-half of the season due to a lack of facilities, O'Brien admitted it had been a trying few months but he is keen to stay if the club are willing.

He said: "Without being too negative it's lucky for us there are no more games to play because I think if we still had another three or four we would've been in trouble. I don't want to dwell on the training problems, but hopefully it can be sorted out for next season."

"After we finished myself and [assistant manager] Lew Watts sat down and were frustrated with how things have gone."

"Then we started thinking about things we could do and planning for next season. I'm

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Ashford Town 2

Lovell 7, Murphy 62

Chatham Town 1

Wilfort 11

not stupid, if the board thinks it's time to move on I will, but I haven't heard anything yet."

Chatham signed off with a defeat on Saturday to an Ashford side who went into the game knowing victory would see them avoid relegation.

The home side were ahead in the seventh minute, when Chris Borchescu's corner was swept into the net by Mark Lovell from six yards.

The lead did not last long and the Chats levelled just four minutes later when John Wilfort headed in an Ashley Proberts corner. It gave the visitors a boost and they piled on the pressure, with Matt Solly and Ray Powell both wasting good chances.

Ashford hit the post late in the first-half and carried on the momentum after the restart. The Chats had one let-off when Lovell headed over at

Chatham starting XI



Subs used: Payne (Wilfort 62), Hill (Kiffin 68), Dixey (Hollington 76)

a corner, but it was only a temporary reprieve.

Just after the hour mark, Ashford regained the lead with the move of the game. A long ball forward was picked up by Tom Murphy and a quick one-two with Lovell saw him rush into the area and fire into the corner of the net.

Rob Denness and Thomas Hill missed chances to snatch a point, but Ashford hung on.

Chatham are staging a friendly on Bank Holiday Monday to raise money for charity. The 'Mark Green Thank You Day' is in recognition of those who helped the defender, who broke his leg playing for Chatham in December. Kick-off is 3pm, with proceeds going to the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust, the Ryman League Benevolent Fund and the Lily Foundation.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Gills fail to spoil Canaries' League One farewell party

FOOTBALL
BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Norwich City 2
Russell 74, Nelson 82
Gillingham 0

GILLINGHAM gave Norwich City a fright but their failure to take chances proved costly as two late goals sealed victory for the Championship-bound home side.

Dennis Oli had the best two chances for the visitors in a good spell after half-time, but each time he was denied by in-form City goalkeeper Fraser Forster. After weathering the brief storm Norwich responded, with Darel Russell and Michael Nelson giving City a hard-earned win.

Gills boss Mark Stimson felt Norwich were below their best and was disappointed his side could not make the most of the opportunity.

He said: "We had a good spell and against good sides like Norwich you've got to take those chances. Unfortunately we didn't and they go down the other end and without a really clear-cut chance, get two goals."

More than 25,000 crammed into Carrow Road expecting to watch a coronation, as Norwich – already promoted – looked to gain the point they needed to win the League One title.

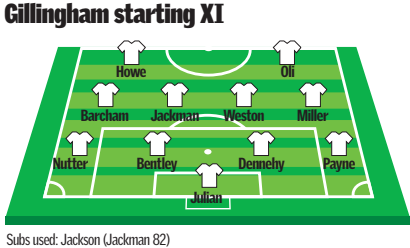
Perhaps buoyed by their win against Leeds



DENIED: Dennis Oli had two good chances to put Gillingham in front at Carrow Road

a week earlier, Gillingham looked more robust than they have often been on the road this season. Although Stimson's side barely threatened a goal before half-time, they worked hard to close Norwich down and goalkeeper Alan Julian did not have a save to make before the break.

The critical phase of the game arrived just after half-time, when the visitors enjoyed a brief spell when they created a succession of good chances. Rene Howe laid on the clearest openings to Oli, who on both occasions could not beat Forster. Andy Barcham and Danny Jackman also fired wide during a ten-minute



spell when Norwich were overwhelmed.

It didn't last long and the home side soon came back into the game. They made the breakthrough 16 minutes from time when Gillingham gave the ball away cheaply in mid-field. Russell latched on to the loose ball and curled a shot from outside the box which went in off the crossbar.

The goal knocked the stuffing out of the Gills and after two near misses, Norwich soon grabbed a second goal when Nelson headed home at a corner to make the game safe.

With Tranmere grabbing a point at Colchester, Gillingham's advantage over the bottom four was trimmed to two points.

The Gills have one last chance at Priestfield this weekend when Southampton visit for the penultimate fixture of the campaign. Stimson at least takes comfort from the fact his side are still in control of their destiny, unlike their relegation from League One two seasons ago.

He said: "It's in our hands. Last time it came round we needed to win at Leeds and other results had to go for us. Hopefully we can put ourselves in a position next week where we're going to be in total control of what we do."



TEAM TALK
with Gills skipper
BARRY FULLER

'Fans will be key for us to beat Saints'

PRIESTFIELD has been brilliant for us this season and we're all hoping to deliver one more good performance when Southampton visit for a massive game on Saturday.

None of the big teams have beaten us in front of our home fans this season and after beating Leeds in our last game there, we're hoping for a repeat. Now Southampton can't make the play-offs hopefully they will take their feet off the gas. Knowing Alan Pardew he'll still want to win the game, but I don't think they'll quite be at 100 per cent, which will help us.

If we can get a result hopefully Millwall will do us a favour at Tranmere and we could be safe with a game to spare. You never want to go into the last game needing something to stay up.

I'll be there this weekend, but unfortunately I'll be watching from the stands. While the boys were travelling to Norwich last Saturday I was coming out of hospital after having an operation, which will keep me out for the last two games.

After breaking my nose against Leeds the doctors said I needed surgery, because it had partly blocked my airway. It made it tough to breathe and they were worried what would happen if I got another whack on it.

We did hope it could be put off until after the season, but if we had waited that long it would have started to heal. Then we'd have had to wait for six months before re-breaking it, followed by at least six weeks out to recover in the middle of next season.

I hate missing games, especially ones as important as these, but sometimes you have to know when you're pushing your luck.

Hopefully it won't matter and the boys can get the job done on Saturday.

LEAGUE TABLE

COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE							
	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt	
1 Norwich City	44	28	8	8	+41	92	
2 Leeds United	44	24	11	9	+33	83	
3 Millwall	44	23	13	8	+33	82	
4 Swindon Town	44	21	16	7	+16	79	
5 Charlton Athletic	44	21	15	8	+20	78	
6 Huddersfield Town	44	22	11	11	+25	77	
7 Southampton (10)	44	22	14	8	+37	70	
8 Colchester United	44	19	12	13	+12	69	
9 Bristol Rovers	44	19	5	20	-7	62	
10 Brentford	44	14	19	11	+4	61	
11 Milton Keynes Dons	44	17	8	19	-7	59	
12 Walsall	44	15	13	16	-4	58	
13 Brighton & Hove Albion	44	14	13	17	-5	55	
14 Carlisle United	44	14	12	18	-5	54	
15 Oldham Athletic	44	13	13	18	-13	52	
16 Hartlepool United	44	14	9	21	-8	51	
17 Yeovil Town	44	12	14	18	-6	50	
18 Leyton Orient	44	12	12	20	-11	48	
19 Exeter City	44	10	17	17	-13	47	
20 Gillingham	44	11	14	19	-14	47	
21 Tranmere Rovers	44	12	9	23	-32	45	
22 Wycombe Wanderers	44	9	15	20	-21	42	
R Southend United	44	9	13	22	-20	40	
R Stockport County	44	5	10	29	-55	25	

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt	
1 Croydon Athletic	42	27	8	7	+53	89	
2 Folkestone Invicta (10)	42	28	8	6	+31	82	
3 Worthing	42	25	5	12	+30	80	
4 Godalming Town (-3)	42	26	5	11	+27	80	
5 Leatherhead	42	22	8	12	+33	74	
6 Fleet Town	42	22	6	14	+25	72	
7 Burgess Hill Town	42	19	10	13	+14	67	
8 Walton & Hersham	42	18	8	16	+1	62	
9 Sittingbourne	42	18	7	17	+15	61	
10 Metropolitan Police	42	17	9	16	+9	60	
11 Horsham YMCA	42	15	14	13	+6	59	
12 Dulwich Hamlet	42	14	12	16	-7	54	
13 Corinthian-Casuals	42	17	3	22	-13	54	
14 Ramsgate	42	13	14	15	-6	53	
15 Whyteleafe	42	15	6	21	-4	51	
16 Mersham	42	12	12	18	-18	48	
17 Chatham Town	42	14	4	24	-20	46	
18 Whitstable Town	42	14	3	25	-44	45	
19 Chipstead	42	11	10	21	-18	43	
20 Asford Town	42	9	11	22	-41	38	
R Walton Casuals	42	8	10	24	-25	34	
R Eastbourne Town	42	6	11	25	-48	29	

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt	
1 Faversham Town	30	24	2	4	+56	74	
2 Herne Bay	30	22	2	6	+39	68	
3 Beckenham Town	30	16	5	9	+17	53	
4 Hythe Town	29	14	8	7	+30	50	
5 Greenwich Borough	30	14	8	8	+13	50	
6 Sevenoaks Town	29	15	4	10	-7	46	
7 Erith Town	30	11	7	12	+3	40	
8 Tunbridge Wells	30	11	8	11	+1	41	
9 Deal Town	30	11	6	13	-11	39	
10 Holmesdale	30	11	3	16	0	36	
11 Norton Sports	30	10	6	14	-7	36	
12 Erith & Belvedere	30	10	6	14	-16	36	
13 Fisher	30	9	5	16	-17	32	
14 Corinthian	30	9	3	18	-35	30	
15 Sporting Bengal United	30	7	4	19	-51	25	
16 Lordswood	30	3	9	18	-29	18	

FIXTURES (Saturday): COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE Gillingham v Southampton

Howe in bid to keep side up and earn a Priestfield stay

FOOTBALL

GILLINGHAM striker Rene Howe says he has just as much at stake in the club avoiding relegation as the rest of the squad, despite only being at Priestfield on loan.

The 23-year-old is contracted to Peterborough United, but has been a virtual ever-present in the side since arriving at Gillingham in January.

With his deal expiring after the last game of the season next month, the tall striker's career is not inextricably linked to whether Gillingham avoid relegation. But Howe feels his committed displays have shown he wants the club to stay up just as much as anyone else in the squad, pointing out his reputation is also on the line.

He said: "In the games I've been playing I've been totally involved and wanting to play well for the team. It doesn't matter whether I'm on loan or I've signed, I just want to play well."

"It's good for me. I've had some play-offs with other teams and this would add to my CV, getting a team out of a relegation zone."

Howe still has another year left on his contract at Peterborough, but despite a change of manager at London Road the striker is keen on ending an unhappy spell this summer.

He said: "I've been speaking to my agent. I've not enjoyed my time there, it's not unheard of that I haven't enjoyed my time. I'll wait until the summer, see what happens



COMMITTED: On-loan striker Rene Howe

club-wise and hopefully I'll be out of there, regardless of the new manager. Sometimes you just have to let things go and move on."

When asked whether Gillingham were an option, he added: "Without a doubt, I've enjoyed my time here."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on the vital last two games of the League One season

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Toys**



We Buy Pocket Watches



**We Offer
Jewellery Repairs**



**We Offer
Valuation Service**



**We Offer
Watch
Repairs**



**War Memorabilia
Valuations**



We Value Vintage Toys

